FLAG FOOTBALL PROGRAM KEEPS GROWING

Sports, B1

Officials watch for holiday COVID fallout

Local, A3

The Herald-Palladium

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Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Owner Dan Lambrecht checks on his stock of bourbons and whiskeys Monday at Lambrecht's Package Liquor Store in St. Joseph.

The other epidemic

Evidence is mounting that drinking has surged during the pandemic

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

Vodka, whiskey and gin have proven to be popular alcohols of choice for customers since the start of the pandemic at Lambrecht's Package Liquor Store in St. Joseph.

ST. JOSEPH — Dan Lambrecht has seen a lot of new faces in the past six months. For him and other liquor store owners, that's good for business.

At the same time, it represents an increase in alcohol use since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, which some see as a potential public health problem.

The JAMA Network Open, a medical journal published by the American Medical Association, reported in September that since the start of the pandemic, alcohol use had increased across the nation by 14 percent, and 17 percent in women.

Some surveys put the numbers even higher, around 24-25 percent.

"These data provide evidence of changes in alcohol use and associated consequences during the COVID-19 pandemic," the JAMA Network Open report says. "In addition to a range of negative physical health associations, excessive alcohol use may lead to or worsen existing mental health problems, such as anxiety or depression, which may themselves be increasing during COVID-19."

And health experts caution, survey results can be skewed because they are based on self-reporting, so increased alcohol use may be under-stated.

Lambrecht, the owner of Lambrecht's Package Liquor Store in St. Joseph, said his store has seen about a 25 percent increase in sales since the pandemic hit high gear in March. He said that's the case statewide at liquor stores.

"One caveat is that bars have been closed, and people may be just drinking more at home," he said.

He speculated the surge in drinking is a result of more free time, along with stress and the financial boost people received with the government stimulus checks earlier this year.

He said hard liquor has seen the biggest gains.

"More people are experimenting with cocktails. We've seen an increase in barware such as shakers," Lambrecht said. "People are cooped up together, some are living with or married to someone they don't really like. Kids are home, which can increase stress, and people are possibly drinking earlier in the day, with no commutes and extra time at home."

Ray Clark, associate pastor at Twelve Corners Community Church, said studies have shown that not only people are drinking more, but more people are drinking.

"There are many reasons. One is that the product has improved, especially locally. He said that while he no longer drinks alcohol, he previously worked stints as a bartender and, "Many people have commented on the quality of craft beers and local microbrews."

Clark said that while he would neither criticize nor endorse the many brew pubs that have sprouted up, "They have been quite valuable to the local economy, the staffs are well-trained, and many serve incredible cuisine."

Clark added that while more people are drinking, "I've noticed people are more responsible when they are out. I have talked to many a designated driver and drunken driving rates have been on a decline."

Berrien County Sheriff Paul Bailey said he predicted at the beginning of the pandemic that alcohol use and abuse would be a problem, with people cooped up at home and experiencing more stress. But

See **DRINKING**, page A5

'A deep, dark period for retailers'

Business leaders predict difficult economic climate this winter

By BECKY KARK
For The Herald-Palladium

Brian Calley spends a lot of time these days examining COVID-19-related data across America, from the number of people testing positive to the number of hospital patients in intensive care unit beds, to the restrictions various states follow to slow the spread of the deadly virus.

It may seem odd for the president of the Small Business Association of Michigan to focus on health statistics, but Calley believes the pandemic and the economy are firmly connected.

CALLEY

"Everybody's sick of COVID, but our economic future is intertwined with it," Calley said Friday during the South Haven Area Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Summit.

As keynote speaker to the online summit, the former lieutenant governor under Gov. Rick Snyder presented statistics from states hit hardest by the pandemic, from its start in March to the present, and made several observations regarding the different ways states have responded to the virus.

Two of those states, North Dakota and South Dakota, saw a surge in positive COVID-19 cases earlier this fall, but by the beginning of December those number leveled off, Calley said.

According to the South Dakota Department of Health's website, on Nov. 12, the state reported 1,824 new positive cases, but by Dec. 1, the number of new cases dropped to 690. A similar situation has been occurring in North Dakota. In mid-November, North Dakota Department of Health reported 1,429 new cases, but by Dec. 1 the number of new cases fell to 480.

But, unlike Michigan, which three weeks ago placed restrictions on certain businesses to avoid the spread of COVID-19, the Dakotas balked at such measures.

"North Dakota did a curfew but no business closures," he said. "South Dakota had no restrictions. Of our neighbors in the Midwest, Ohio is one I'm most interested in."

Three weeks ago, when coronavirus cases surged throughout the country, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services ordered some businesses to restrict services, or in some cases close.

See **RETAILERS**, page A6

MIOSHA says Lane Automotive violated pandemic safety orders

Company faces $3,500 fine, must show steps to improve

By HP STAFF

LANSING — Lane Automotive in Watervliet Township was among a group of businesses cited this week by the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) for allegedly failing to protect workers and take safety precautions, according to a MIOSHA news release issued Friday.

Proposed fines range from $400 to $6,300 at the various businesses.

Lane Automotive was hit with a proposed fine of $3,500. State workplace safety regulators said violations at Lane include: "A lack of face coverings when employees were within six feet of each other, allowing barriers to be removed in break rooms so employees could sit next to each other, and not avoiding larger meetings when social distancing was possible."

The state inspection, conducted July 6, stemmed from an employee complaint.

The fines are being issued for "general duty clause" citations. This clause requires that an employer provide a workplace that is free from recognized hazards that are causing, or are likely to cause, death or serious physical harm to the employee, according to the news release.

General duty clause citations carries fines of up to $7,000.

The affected companies will have 15 working days from receipt of the citations to contest the violations and penalties, or take steps to meet MIOSHA requirements. It is possible Lane could get the fine reduced if it meets MIOSHA requirements and agrees not to seek an appeal.

Lane Automotive manufactures high performance automotive components which are sold and shipped throughout the world.

GOOD FELLOW FUND
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Index

Business	B4	Features	C5	Local	A3	Outdoors	B6
Classifieds	D1	Focus	C1	Obituaries	A4	Religion	C2
Comics	C4	Home & Garden	C6	Opinion	C3	Sports	B1

Sunday Weather
High 39
Low 32

6 50645 49086 7

Pastor tells congregation to catch virus, 'get it over with'

HOLLAND (AP) — The senior pastor of a church in western Michigan has encouraged his congregation to catch the coronavirus to "get it over with" and calling it "all good."

Bart Spencer made the statements during a Nov. 14 sermon at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Holland, The Holland Sentinel reported.

"COVID, it's all good," Spencer said. "It's OK. Get it, get it over with, press on."

As of Thursday, 380,343 virus cases have been confirmed in Michigan, according to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. More than 9,500 people have died from the virus.

The sermon was posted on the church's website and shared on Facebook, the newspaper said. Spencer later told the newspaper that he and several members of his family contracted the virus and have recovered.

"It's not fun," he said. "I lost my sense of taste and smell, but my bout with the flu was worse."

Former Lighthouse Baptist member Miguel Medina said he posted the video clip of the sermon on Facebook.

"I had no intention of posting, but I couldn't believe what I just saw and heard," Medina said in an email.

The church has been holding services in-person. Some attendees wear masks and social distance. Others don't, according to the newspaper.

"We trust our people to make their own decisions," Spencer said. "We respect one another's positions."

Dangerously viral: How Trump, supporters spread false claims

By AMANDA SEITZ and DAVID KLEPPER
Associated Press

The cellphone video shot in the dark by a woman in a parked car appeared to show something ominous: a man closing the doors of a white van and then rolling a wagon with a large box into a Detroit election center.

Within hours, the 90-second clip was being shared on news sites and conservative YouTube accounts, offered as apparent proof that illegal votes were being smuggled in after polls closed. Prominent Republicans, including Eric Trump, one of the president's sons, amplified the falsehoods on social media. Within a day, views of the video shot up past a million.

That single video serves as a powerful emblem of the trafficking in false information that has plagued the presidential election won by Joe Biden. In other videos, photos, and social media posts, supporters of President Donald Trump, and most notably the incumbent himself, have raised doubts about the outcome based on problems that did not occur.

Though the clip was quickly discredited by news organizations and public officials – the man depicted was a photojournalist hauling camera equipment, not illegal votes – to many viewers it had its intended effect.

Eric Hainline, a UPS driver from Dayton, Ohio, said that video and others he watched like it reinforced his suspicions that the election was stolen from Trump.

"You don't know who to believe anymore," said Hainline, 44. "I think the trust people have is broken."

Trump and his allies have fomented the idea of a "rigged election" for months, promoting falsehoods through various media and even lawsuits about fraudulent votes and dead voters casting ballots.

While the details of these spurious allegations may fade over time, the scar it leaves on American democracy could take years to heal.

"There will always be people who believe the Democrats stole the election in 2020," said Jennifer Mercieca, a historian of political rhetoric at Texas A&M University. "That will not change."

In fact, there is no evidence of widespread fraud in the 2020 election. Election officials confirmed there were no serious irregularities and the election went well. Attorney General William Barr said Tuesday the Justice Department has not identified voter fraud that would change the presidential election.

But from the Oval Office, Trump has consistently tried to mislead the nation about the outcome. As a result, cries of voter fraud have persisted loudly in an online media ecosystem where pro-Trump Facebook pages, Twitter accounts and fringe websites readily circulate unchecked or misleading claims about the voting process.

David Goldman / AP

Jake Contos, a supporter of President Donald Trump, chants during a protest against the election results outside the central counting board at the TCF Center in Detroit on Nov. 5.

And one of those falsehoods sprang from the cellphone camera of Kelly SoRelle, a Republican from Texas. After shooting her video of the man with a wagon in Detroit, SoRelle took it to a conservative YouTube host who played it for his show's 5 million subscribers the day after the election. She also gave it to the Texas Scorecard, a website started by Empower Texans, a lobbying group whose PAC has pumped millions of dollars into the campaigns of ultra-conservative candidates. SoRelle did not respond to requests for comment.

Over the next week, there were nearly 150,000 mentions of wagons, suitcases or coolers of votes in broadcast scripts, blogs and on public Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts, according to an analysis that media intelligence firm Zignal Labs conducted for the AP. Mentions of the story began to fizzle out on Nov. 5, after news organizations fact-checked the claims, Zignal Labs' report found.

By then, however, many of those fringe websites and Trump associates were busy peddling new claims of voter fraud online.

Some claimed 100,000 ballots were "magically found" in Milwaukee at 3 a.m. when, in reality, the city's election director, escorted by police, had just delivered thumb drives of data with the count of roughly 169,000 absentee ballots to the county courthouse so the results could be uploaded. Others suggested that Dominion Voting Systems, one of the country's most widely used voting technology firms deleted or switched votes – an impossible feat that never happened, the company says, a finding confirmed by the federal agency that oversees election security.

Meanwhile, in lawsuits, tweets and Facebook posts, the Trump campaign started naming voters in Georgia, Nevada and Michigan they believed were dead. Among them was Mrs. James E. Blalock, a Georgia widow who registered to vote using her married name and is alive.

LOTTERIES

Friday drawings

Michigan
Poker Lotto
KC-3D-10D-3H-6S
Midday Daily 3
9-8-6
Midday Daily 4
5-1-1-1
Daily 3
0-8-1
Daily 4
6-0-0-4
Fantasy 5
03-05-13-14-36
Estimated jackpot
$153,000
Keno
01-03-06-10-14-24-27-29-30-32-34-37-39-42-43-47-48-55-56-62-66-79
Mega Millions jackpot
$244 million
Powerball jackpot
$243 million

Thursday drawings

Indiana
Cash 5
02-13-23-40-43
Estimated jackpot
$325,500
Cash4Life
06-10-14-31-59, Cash Ball: 2
Quick Draw Midday
01-03-04-13-14-15-17-18-20-21-23-26-43-44-46-52-70-72-77-79, BE: 77
Daily Three-Midday
7-4-5, SB: 4
Daily Three-Evening
4-1-0, SB: 3
Daily Four-Midday
7-1-4-8, SB: 4
Daily Four-Evening
3-5-7-3, SB: 3
Quick Draw Evening
01-06-09-13-14-32-33-34-39-41-47-48-49-55-56-62-71-75-77-79, BE: 62

Illinois
Lotto
01-08-22-44-49-52, Extra Shot: 10
Estimated jackpot
$11 million
LuckyDay Lotto Midday
05-06-08-18-38
Estimated jackpot
$150,000
Pick Three-Midday
6-2-1, Fireball: 5
Pick Three-Evening
0-8-0, Fireball: 4
Pick Four-Midday
0-0-3-3, Fireball: 5
Pick Four-Evening
5-7-6-4, Fireball: 0
Lucky Day Lotto
02-05-08-09-24

– The Associated Press

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COVID-19 relief: What's on the table as Congress seeks deal

By ANDREW TAYLOR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — After numerous fits and starts and months of inaction, optimism is finally building in Washington for a COVID-19 aid bill that would offer relief for businesses, the unemployed, schools, and health care providers, among others struggling as caseloads are spiking.

Under pressure from moderates in both parties, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell have initiated late-game negotiations in hopes of combining a relief package of, in all likelihood, less than $1 trillion with a separate $1.4 trillion governmentwide omnibus spending bill. The duo were the architects of the $1.8 trillion CARES Act, the landmark relief bill passed in March.

Success is not certain and considerable differences remain over items such as aid to states and local governments, liability protections for businesses and universities reopening during the pandemic, and whether to issue a second round of $1,200 direct payments to most Americans.

But renewing soon-to-expire jobless benefits, providing a second round of "paycheck protection" subsidies, and funding to distribute vaccines are sure bets to be included in any deal.

Here are the top issues for the end-stage COVID-19 relief talks.

Jobless benefits

The CARES Act created a $600 per-week bonus COVID-19 unemployment benefit that sustained household incomes and consumer demand during the springtime shutdowns. It expired at the end of July and Republicans are against its renewal. The CARES Act also allowed for additional weeks of emergency pandemic unemployment payments at regular benefit levels – which are themselves about to expire, on Dec. 31. Any deal is sure to extend the emergency benefits, and a bipartisan compromise framework that's helping guide the talks calls for restoring half of the bonus benefit, or $300 per week more.

Business subsidies

Another sure thing is a reauthorization of the Paycheck Protection Program, also established by the CARES Act, to give a second round of subsidies to businesses struggling through the pandemic and make other changes to the program, which enjoys bipartisan support but is particularly revered by Republicans. Leftover PPP funds from two springtime infusions into the program would cover almost half of the $300 billion or so cost.

Direct payments

President Trump has long supported another $1,200 round of direct payments to most Americans, subject to income limits that make upper-bracket taxpayers ineligible. House Democrats support the idea, but it is unpopular with many Senate Republicans and was left out of a scaled-back Senate GOP plan. A bipartisan bill by Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and others, leaves out the direct payments as well, and their up to $300 billion cost could render them too expensive for inclusion in the year-end package, though lawmakers ranging from Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y., to Sen. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., are pushing to retain them.

State and local governments

This is one of the trickiest issues in the talks – another round of aid to states and local governments to follow a $150 billion installment this spring. It's a top priority of Pelosi and other Democrats but is opposed by many Republicans, who warn it would bail out states run by Democrats like California and New York. Trump doesn't like the idea as well, but Pelosi's demands for the money have been slashed from earlier amounts approaching $1 trillion. Revenue losses due to COVID-19 haven't been as large as feared. But smaller localities left out of the first tranche of payments are eager for funding. A plan endorsed by moderates would provide $160 billion.

Liability shield

Businesses reopening during the pandemic have for months been seeking a shield against lawsuits claiming negligence for COVID-19 outbreaks. McConnell is the most potent backer of the idea and he's drafted sweeping protections against lawsuits for businesses, universities, and other organizations. The powerful trial lawyers lobby – which still holds great influence with Democrats – is opposed, and McConnell's fears of a wave of COVID-related lawsuits haven't materialized.

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When it comes to Veterans Benefits, many veterans and dependents don't know what they don't know. Nationwide, less than 10% of those eligible apply. Let us help to educate and navigate you thru the maze of what is available from discharge to death. Here are some of the many benefits:

★ Disability Compensation benefits for prior conditions, diseases or injuries that occurred in service or many years later as a result of service (e.g. Agent Orange Exposure, Camp Lejeune Contaminated Water, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder – combat or personal trauma) to name a few.

★ PTSD Counselors from the South Bend Vet Center who come to Berrien County twice a week.

★ Non-Service Connected Veterans Pension and Survivors Pension benefits (House Bound as well as Aid and Attendance) for low income veterans over age 65 or prior to age 65 that are disabled and have at least one day of wartime service (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free transportation at designated stops for veterans enrolled in the VA Health Benefits Program to the VA Medical Center in Battle Creek and the VA Health Care Center in Mishawaka.

★ Financial assistance thru the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund for wartime veterans or peacetime veterans who earned an expeditionary medal (additional means tested restrictions apply).

★ Free financial coaching from an Accredited Financial Counselor and Financial Fitness Coach Counselor as well as ongoing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University Military Edition classes.

hp LOCAL & STATE

Berrien health officials in wait-and-see mode

Weekly COVID caseload drops, but holiday is an X factor

By ALEXANDRA NEWMAN
HP Staff Writer

BENTON TOWNSHIP — It's going to take another week or so until officials can tell whether the curve is being flattened, or if there is just a lag in data from the Thanksgiving holiday, Berrien County health officials said Friday.

Berrien County gained just 800 new COVID-19 cases since last Friday. That's compared to 1,124 last week, 1,066 the week before that and 795 the week before that.

"This could be really encouraging, but we need more time to see if that's a real trend," Nicki Britten, health officer for the Berrien County Health Department (BCHD), said Friday.

She said a lot of testing centers were closed over the holiday weekend and it's too soon to tell what transmission of the virus could have happened from gatherings over the holiday.

"Next week is when we're going to start to see more of that impact on transmission, and then it'll probably be another week until that increase, if there is one, starts hitting the hospitals," Britten said.

Average COVID-19 hospitalizations at Spectrum Health Lakeland remained steady this week at an average of 63 patients each day. The average was 62 last week and 55 the week before that.

Dr. Loren Hamel, president of Spectrum Health Lakeland, said Friday that this is lucky, though projections estimate the hospital could be at 83-112 patients over the next three weeks.

He said the ICU is running full most days, though the hospital still technically has more bed capacity for non-critical patients.

Hamel warned of a person dying from COVID-19 nearly every single day at the hospital.

This week, the Berrien County did record seven COVID-19 deaths, bringing the county's death toll to 116.

An additional 389 recoveries were recorded this week. That's an improvement from the 295 recorded the week prior and 249 the week before that.

With deaths and recoveries, the county was at about 3,869 active COVID-19 cases on Friday. That's up from 3,599 last Friday.

The county's percent positivity rate for testing remains high, at 18.4 percent.

In total, since March, the county has recorded 6,891 confirmed cases and 541 presumed cases of COVID-19. That's an additional 61 presumed cases over last Friday.

Vaccine update

Hamel said the county will be allotted less than 1,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine during the initial rollout.

"We thought a couple of weeks ago we'd be getting 30,000 doses, but now we've been told we're going to get 995 doses. We have freezers big enough for hundreds of thousands of doses," he said. "995 doses is way better than none, but it's way less than we need."

Health care employees and nursing home residents are being prioritized in the first phase, and Hamel said 995 vaccine doses won't be nearly enough to cover them all.

"We're excited to get them, but I think it's going to be a rollout over a number of months," he said.

Van Buren/Cass

The holiday didn't slow down new cases in Van Buren or Cass counties much this week.

Van Buren County has recorded 423 new COVID-19 cases since last Friday. That's compared to 444 last week and 427 the week prior.

Cass County added 252 new cases this week. That's compared to 262 last week and 187 the week before.

Van Buren County had another deadly week too, recording eight deaths. Last week it recorded 10.

Cass County recorded one death this week, the same as last week.

In total, since March, Van Buren County has recorded 2,999 cases and 48 deaths. Cass County has recorded 2,216 cases and 30 deaths.

The Van Buren Cass District Health Department has started a weekly video update from its medical director on its website, https://vbcassdhd.org/covid-19.

In addition to the video update, slides of graphs and charts of data are also available to view.

Contact: anewman@TheHP.com, 932-0357, Twitter: @HPANewman

SEASON OF LIGHT

Photos by Don Campbell / HP staff

Visitors walk through a display of 1 million holiday lights Friday night during the annual Light Up the Bluff event at Lake Bluff Park in downtown St. Joseph. The annual display is sponsored by the St. Joseph Improvement Association, in partnership with the city.

Visitors enjoy a holiday display at Chartreuse on Friday night during the Window Wonderland event in downtown St. Joseph,. Shoppers gathered downtown to view dozens of storefronts decorated for the holiday season, and to vote for their favorite window display at stjoetoday.com /vote.

Good Fellow Fund off to good start

Southwest Michigan residents were generous this week, sending in $3,380 the Good Fellow Fund to help local families in need this holiday season.

The fund received $2,565 in cash and checks mailed or dropped off at our office, and another $814 that was donated online.

The fund is administered by The Herald-Palladium, which covers all administrative costs. The annual Newsie drive to support the fund was canceled this year because of COVID-19, but service clubs are still actively seeking donations. You can support the fund by sending a check to Good Fellow Fund, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085, or by donating online at TheHP.com/goodfellows. No donation is too small.

Here are some of the donations we received this week: Cathleen Knauf, in memory of Velma Skelley, $20; Arcadia Gardens LLC, $165; Guy and Sonja Stormo, $25; Donna Bauman, $40; Vance Ferguson Cemetery Memorials, $100; Louis and Doris Miller, $100; Mark and Janet Zielke, $150; Maeryle M. Merritt, $500; Karen Scheltz, $50; Donald and Sharon Gillespie, $25; Gretta Vanbree, $50; Alan Bulgrin, $50; Kathryn Schultz, $25; Philip and Loni Maki, $200; Darlene Kiessel and Susan Foster, $25; Darrin and Beth Drollinger, $100; James and Shirley Pittman, $50; Jo and Debra Reeves, in memory of Jim Reeves Sr., $25; Terence and Steven McNeil, $50; anonymous, $40; Perry and Annette Ballard, $100; St. Joseph Township Lions, in memories of Lion Ron Ravitch and Lion Duane Schneider, $500; John and Susan Braun, $50; Vicki Pastrick Florin, $25; Dean and Barb DeVries, $100.

The goal for the fund this year is $35,000.

BERRIEN COUNTY TRIAL COURT

Man bound over for trial in mother-in-law's death

By JULIE SWIDWA
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — A Berrien County man will face trial on charges related to the death of his wife's mother.

Berrien Assistant Prosecutor Kate Arnold said Dusty Joe Clemons, 33, was bound over for trial on charges of involuntary manslaughter, a 15-year felony, and second-degree abuse of a vulnerable adult, a four-year felony. Trial is set for May 18, 2021, with Berrien County Trial Court Judge Gary Bruce.

Clemons and his wife, Cheyenne Clemons, 36, both were charged in relation to the 2019 death of Suzanne Zandarski, 66, Cheyenne's mother.

Cheyenne Clemons earlier pleaded guilty to second-degree abuse of a vulnerable adult, and on Oct. 26 was sentenced to 45 days in jail and two years probation.

Arnold said Dusty and Cheyenne Clemons were caretakers for Zandarski and had lived in various locations within Berrien County. According to an autopsy report, Zandarski died of hypertensive cardiovascular disease with contributing conditions of chronic kidney disease, urinary incontinence, pressure injury, schizophrenia and neglect.

Zandarski died in October 2019 and her daughter and son-in-law were arrested in September of this year.

Dusty Clemons was bound over for trial following a preliminary hearing this week in Berrien County Trial Court.

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

Berrien County races to allocate CARES money

Grant funds may be lost unless county can finalize a plan

By LOUISE WREGE
HP Staff Writer

ST. JOSEPH — Berrien County commissioners are ready to meet on New Year's Eve, if needed, to finalize how money from the CARES Act is spent.

"We don't want to send a nickel back to Lansing," said Administrator Brian Dissette during the Berrien County Board of Commissioners meeting Thursday. "These are dollars that can be used here, used to benefit the residents in Berrien County, and it's incumbent upon us to get creative on how we get these dollars allocated."

Dissette said after the meeting that the county has received about $1.8 million from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, which was signed into law in March to help Americans, governments and businesses avoid financial calamity during the pandemic.

The county will lose any money not allocated by Dec. 31.

The state has set up several programs through which federal money is being funneled. Dissette said staff members are working hard to make sure all of the requirements for each program are met so the county doesn't have to give any money back.

One pot of money with the most requirements is $377,000 in federal Community Development Block Grant funds, which the county applied for in October and accepted Thursday. The money is being received through the Michigan Economic Development program.

Community Development Director Dan Fette said during the meeting that the county must show that the CDBG money is being used to help people in the low to moderate income brackets.

"We don't want to send a nickel back to Lansing. These are dollars that can be used here, used to benefit the residents in Berrien County, and it's incumbent upon us to get creative on how we get these dollars allocated."

BRIAN DISSETTE
Administrator

"That basically would entail almost all of Berrien County," he said. "But certain ongoing costs that we have as a government wouldn't be eligible for reimbursement under this program."

Fette said it can't be used for items such as computer upgrades, which are considered internal county operations.

"Instead, what we're looking at are the protective measures that we've put in place to protect the public in our own facilities, the PPE that we've required over the last few months, the PPE that we'll have to acquire moving forward into next year," he said.

Fette said his staff is working with MEDC officials to figure out what costs qualify.

"We're going to put a laundry together of everything that we think that we've expended that would be eligible, send it up to MEDC and ask for them to basically say yes or no," he said.

Dissette said the Dec. 31 meeting will be canceled if all of the funds are allocated before then.

Contact: lwrege@TheHP.com, 932-0361, Twitter: @HPWrege

BERRIEN COUNTY TRIAL COURT

Sentences

St. Joseph

Assault

Brandon S. Goodwin, 23, of Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, 4-10 years in prison, credit for 139 days served, $798 in fines and costs and $2,311 restitution for assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder; a concurrent term of 330 days and $668 in fines and costs for interfering with an electronic communication device; and a concurrent term of 93 days for domestic violence, an assault on a woman, Feb. 27 in Royalton Township.

Niles

Nathanyel T. Raczkowski, 21, of Portage, Mich., $658 in fines and costs, 18 months probation and driver's license suspended for 180 days, restricted after 30 days, for maintaining a drug vehicle Jan. 2 in Oronoko Township.

OBITUARIES

Wayne W. Gay

Nov. 2, 1938 – Nov. 30, 2020

Wayne W. Gay, 82, died on Nov. 30, 2020 at Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo.

He was born Nov. 2, 1938, in Hamilton, Ala. At age 9, his family moved to Watervliet, where he graduated high school in 1956. He joined the U.S. Army out of high school serving with the Army Security Agency in as a high speed Radio operator/radio countermeasures operator in Germany.

After returning stateside, he worked for the Watervliet Paper Mill. In 1966, he started working for Michigan Bell, later Ameritech, retiring in February 1999 with 33 years of service. While at the telephone company – he served at every level of the local chapter of the Communication Workers of America.

Married three times (Jeanne, then to Lorraine – resulting in two daughters: Tracy and Holly), in 1975, he married the love of his life, Shirley, and they recently celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary. He loved her children, Laurie and Kevin, like his own. He was known as a man who loved deeply.

Wayne had the gift of gab and could make conversation with anyone. Friendly and kind – everyone knew him as the go to man to get things done. He would help anyone who needed it.

Throughout his life, Wayne was an avid sportsman – he loved golf, bowling, bike riding, gardening and bird watching. He was a dedicated bowler earning a 300-game ring and traveling to tournaments throughout the country with his bowling and golf partner, George Huffman. He loved golf so much he would often golf in the rain and snow.

He enjoyed watching Michigan State football and basketball and never missed watching a major golf tournament on television. He was incredibly active up until his death, bike riding seven miles and golfing – walking (not riding) the front nine at Lake Cora Golf Course three weeks prior to his death from COVID-19.

Wayne was also a wealth of information – he loved reading and doing his crosswords and word jumbles from the Sunday paper. He was a photographer of both nature and capturing memories from family gatherings. He absolutely loved nature's beauty and spent a 45 years gardening at his home in Hartford, caring for his beloved roses, petunias and mums.

Wayne will be lovingly remembered and greatly missed by his wife, Shirley; his daughters: Tracy Gay of Shepherdstown, W.Va., and Holly Gay of Hartford; stepdaughter, Laurie Murphy of Lexington, N.C.; and stepson, Kevin Murphy of Grand Rapids. He will be remembered by his five grandchildren, and his nine great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Paul, in 1963, along with his parents.

The family wishes to thank Bronson Methodist Hospital and all the professionals who took care of him during his final days when we could not be with him.

Visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, and from 10 a.m. to noon on Thursday, at Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home in Coloma. Private family services will follow with burial taking place in Watervliet City Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the West Michigan Cancer Center. The family welcomes memories and messages in their guest book online at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Edna L. Farthing

Feb. 9, 1926 – Nov. 30, 2020

Edna L. Farthing, 94, of Kalamazoo passed away Monday evening, Nov. 30, 2020, in St. Joseph.

Edna was born on Feb. 9, 1926, in Climax, Mich., the daughter of Herbert and Mary (Wolcott) Smith.

On July 16, 1955, Edna was united in marriage to Frank G. Farthing II, who preceded her in death on Feb. 2, 2006. The couple celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary prior to Frank's passing. She was also preceded in death by her brothers: Edwin and Raymond Smith; and daughter-in-law, Nancy Farthing.

Edna Loraine (Smith) Farthing lived a full life as a musician, educator, genealogist, wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. She received a bachelor's degree from Western State Teachers College and a master's degree from the same institution after it became Western Michigan University.

Edna loved music from an early age, drawing much joy and confidence from her singing. She sang at weddings professionally while still in high school. In college she participated in several student choirs and was a founding member of the WMU chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota. Her last job while in college was as a paid soloist for the morning and evening services of the Second Reformed Church in Kalamazoo.

After her marriage she became a member of the Mattawan Congregational Church. She directed the church choir from 1955 to 1968 and led a young girls choir which performed both at the church and for community events. She sang with the Bach Festival Chorus, based at Kalamazoo College, from 1964 to 1987, and was a soprano soloist on more than one occasion.

During her teaching career Edna taught music and elementary grades in Hastings, Springfield, Mattawan and Paw Paw. She was a master teacher who trained several new teachers. She loved seeing children catch fire with learning, particularly reading.

While teaching elementary school in Paw Paw, her principal brought a computer to her classroom and said, "See what you can do with this." Computers became a passionate hobby as she found educational games for her students, printed T-shirts, and made connections through e-mail.

After retirement, Edna expanded her interest in genealogy. She documented ancestors who served in the Revolutionary War, which enabled her to become a member of the Lucinda Hinsdale Stone Chapter of the NSDAR (National Society Daughters of the American Revolution). She contributed to her DAR chapter as regent and with her genealogy workshops, helping numerous budding genealogists to trace their own lineage. She also belonged to the Prairie Historical Society, Kalamazoo County Historical Society, Wolcott Society and Cooley Family Association of America (past president). Frank and Edna made several road trips that included a car show or museum for him and research at a genealogy library for her.

Edna is survived by her children: Carla (Robert) Sykora, Frank G. (Karen) Farthing III, Thomas (Christine) Farthing; grandchildren: Andrew Sykora, Mary (Rob) Hirasawa, Amy (Andrew) Esper, Judy Sykora and fiancé Juan Felipe Campos, Becky (Ben) Knuth, Rachelle (Scott) Schroeder, Kevin Farthing, Scott Farthing and Sara Farthing, great-grandchildren: Travis (Dayna) Schuster, Samantha (Tyler) Harrison, Kai and Emiko Hirasawa, Hudson Esper, and Jack Knuth, with three more great-grandchildren expected in 2021.

A private graveside service was held in Maple Grove Cemetery in Mattawan. A memorial service will be held at a later date.

Memorials may be directed to: WMU Archives and Regional History Collections, Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5307; Mattawan Community Church, 23680 Front St., Mattawan, MI 49071; Prairie Historical Society, P. O. Box 82, Climax, MI 49034.

To view Edna's personalized guest book please visit www.langelands.com.

Junior Hess

June 28, 1940 – Dec. 2, 2020

Junior Hess, 80, of Coloma passed away Wednesday evening, Dec. 2, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center in St. Joseph.

The funeral service will be at 1 p.m. Monday at Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home in Coloma with visitation beginning at noon.

Masks are required. Cremation will follow. Memorial donations in Junior's honor may be made to the Humane Society – Southwestern Michigan Yeager Family Pet Shelter. Those wishing to leave a message or share a memory with the family online may do so at www.duffieldpastrick.com.

Junior was born June 28, 1940, in Moberly, Mo. He was one of 10 children of the Alfred and Hazel (Kendall) Hess family.

He and Pamela Board were married on Dec. 12, 1958, in Davenport, Iowa, and would have celebrated their 62nd anniversary next week. The couple moved to Southwest Michigan in 1959 to raise their own family of three children.

Junior was an entrepreneur; owning and operating A-Abe Septic Tank Service until his retirement. Junior was a great husband, father, grandfather and friend who was always willing to help others. He loved attending his grandchildren's sporting events. He was also a mentor to them and taught each how to be strong and independent individuals. He will be missed by the many lives he touched during his lifetime.

Junior is survived by his wife, Pam; two sons: Bill (Bonda Simmons) Hess of Covert and Mike (Doreen) Hess of Coloma; siblings: Dewayne (Valerie) Hess of Newark, Ohio, Jack Hess of Coloma, and Barbara Johnson of Moberly; grandchildren: Krysten (Kyle) Stillson, Dustin (Dana) Hess, Josh (Heather) Wise, Samantha Simmons and Elizabeth-Bitt Simmons; and great-grandchildren: Alexys Hess, Ben Hess, Kaylee Wise, Cody Hess, Chayse Ott, Kody Stillson, Masyn Hess, Layla Wise, Lucy Wise and baby Levi Simmons. Also surviving are his fur babies: Sissy Girl and Kitty Blue.

In addition to his parents: Alfred and Hazel, he is preceded in death by his daughter, Lucinda Wise; brothers: Paul Hess, Melvin Hess, Bobby Hess and Wayne Hess; and sisters: Doris Norris and Patty Shearn.

Angelina D. Kapalczynski

July 18, 1931 – Nov. 29, 2020

Angelina D. Kapalczynski, 89, of St. Joseph went to be with her Savior Jesus Christ on Sunday, Nov. 29, 2020, at Caretel Inns, St. Joseph.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Starks & Menchinger Chapel & Cremation Services. A memorial Mass will be at a later date. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 220 Church St., or Birthright, both of St. Joseph. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com.

Angelina was born on July 18, 1931, in Niles to Peter and Josephine (Mongolona) D'Onofrio. She graduated from Niles High School, class of 1949.

Angelina married the love of her life, Ralph Kapalczynski, on June 21, 1958, in Niles.

She was employed at Kawneer as a secretary for many years. Angelina was a faithful and proud member of St. John/St. Bernard's Catholic Church, where she was heavily involved with their Bible study program. She also volunteered her time at Birthright, and also enjoyed golfing, playing bridge and tending to her garden. However, what gave Angelina the most joy was spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Angelina is survived by her loving husband of 62 years, Ralph; daughter, Cynthia McKay of Austin, Texas; son, Ralph (Sheri) Kapalczynski Jr., of Charlotte, Mich.; and grandchildren: Megan, Michelle, and Jeremy McKay, all of Austin; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents: Peter and Josephine; and siblings: Loretta Roberts and Leslie D'Onofrio.

Death notices

Margaret "Marge" Lucille Adams, 97, died Dec. 12, 2020 at South Haven Nursing and Rehab Center, South Haven. Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service, Benton Harbor, 926-7222.

Willie Ruth Brown, 74, formerly of Benton Harbor, died Nov. 24, 2020, in Columbia, Md. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Christopher Coburn, 37, died Dec. 3, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Florin Funeral Service in Benton Township, 926-7222.

Dannell K. Ewing, 42, of Benton Harbor died Nov. 28, 2020, at home. Robbins Brothers Funeral Home, Benton Harbor, 927-3181.

Edna L. Farthing, 94, of Kalamazoo died Nov. 30, 2020, in St. Joseph. Langeland Family Funeral Homes, Kalamazoo, 343-1508.

Sharon Fernwalt, 63, of Buchanan died Dec. 2, 2020, at her home. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Wayne W. Gay, 82, died Nov. 30, 2020. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Coloma, 468-6000.

James Grahl, 77, of Niles died Dec. 3, 2020, at his home. Brown Funeral Home, Niles, 683-1155.

Deborah Gross, 66, of Niles died Dec. 2, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Brown Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Niles, 683-1155.

Junior Hess, 80, of Coloma died Dec. 2, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Duffield & Pastrick Family Funeral Home, Coloma 468-6000.

Angelina D. Kapalczynski, 89, of St. Joseph died Nov. 29, 2020. Starks & Menchinger Chapel, St. Joseph, 556-9450.

James S. King, 76, of Benton Township died Dec 2, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service, Benton Harbor, 926-7222.

Dr. Samuel Roda, 89, of Coloma died Dec. 4, 2020, at The Willows in St. Joseph. Hutchins Funeral Home, Watervliet, 463-3811.

Donald Herman Schuhknecht, 74, of Berrien Springs died Nov. 23, 2020, at Lakeland Medical Center, St. Joseph. Purely Cremations – Starks Family Funeral Homes and Cremation Services, Benton Harbor, 926-9440.

James Stevenson, 90, of Niles died Dec. 3, 2020, at home. Brown Funeral Home, Niles, 683-1155.

Mary Ann Zechiel, 91, of Coloma died Dec. 3, 2020, at Bronson Methodist Hospital, Kalamazoo. Hutchins Funeral Home, Watervliet, 463-3811.

Douglas C. Allen

Douglas "Doug" Allen, 69, passed away Dec. 2, 2020, in his home in Benton Harbor, surrounded by family. His battle with cancer in recent years demonstrated his courage and his deep love for his friends and family – whom he always greeted with enthusiasm and a big smile, despite the pain.

Doug was born in Spring Lake, Mich., to Moira and Dennis Allen, as the youngest of three brothers (Thomas and Dennis Jr.), with whom he remained close all his life. After being accepted to the University of Michigan, he left Spring Lake for Ann Arbor, which became like a second home. He will always be remembered as an avid Michigan fan, and some of his family's best memories together were made in Ann Arbor.

After graduating from law school at the University of South Carolina (near his brother, Tom), he returned to Michigan. There he began his career as an attorney at a law firm in St. Joseph, and also met and married the love of his life, Ferol Capizzo Allen. With her support, he later co-founded the law firm of Straub, Seaman, and Allen PC, and helped raise his three children, Elizabeth (Kevin Sherlock), Kathryn (Chris Ory), and Michael.

Throughout his life, Doug had many interests and hobbies (from trap and skeet shooting and poetry to motorcycles, music, and Michigan sports), which he loved to share with his friends and family. His colleagues and friends admire him as an intelligent attorney and invaluable mentor, and have fond memories of motorcycle trips, football games, and after-work drinks.

Doug always had a funny story to tell or advice to offer. To his family, he was a caring and extremely proud husband, father, grandfather (Mia Ory), and uncle. He was a provider, role model, life-lesson teacher, Civil War historian and collector, high-school sports fan, fast food lover, and "Allen-hook Shot" pioneer, who enjoyed an Absolut on the rocks with a lemon twist or red wine with a book by the fire.

Toward the end of his career and after retiring from the practice of law, he was happy to get to spend more time traveling with Ferol, tailgating in Ann Arbor with his family through some reasonably successful Michigan football seasons, and giving advice about finances, home repairs, careers, and anything else his kids needed.

Doug always encouraged those close to him to never cut corners, take the scenic route, turn up the Bruce Springsteen, and enjoy the ride.

Doug's life will be honored and celebrated with a Mass of Christian Burial at 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 5, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, 220 Church St., St. Joseph, with Father John Fleckenstein officiating. Internment will take place at North Shore Memory Gardens at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to Berrien County Cancer Service, 3900 Hollywood Road, St. Joseph, or to Caring Circle Hospice, 4025 Health Park Lane, St. Joseph. Those wishing to leave an online condolence may do so at www.starks-menchinger.com. For those who are unable to attend, Doug's service will be recorded and placed on the funeral home website following the service.

Thanksgiving travel down, but only slightly

By STEPHEN GROVES
Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. — Americans couldn't resist the urge to gather for Thanksgiving, driving only slightly less than a year ago and largely ignoring the pleas of public health experts, who begged them to forgo holiday travel to help contain the coronavirus pandemic, data from roadways and airports shows.

The nation's unwillingness to tamp down on travel offered a warning in advance of Christmas and New Year's as virus deaths and hospitalizations hit new highs a week after Thanksgiving. U.S. deaths from the outbreak eclipsed 3,100 on Thursday, obliterating the single-day record set last spring.

Vehicle travel in early November was as much as 20 percent lower than a year earlier, but it surged around the holiday and peaked on Thanksgiving Day at only about 5 percent less than the pandemic-free period in 2019, according to StreetLight Data, which provided an analysis to The Associated Press.

"People were less willing to change their behavior than any other day during the pandemic," said Laura Schewel, founder of StreetLight Data.

Airports also saw some of their busiest days of the pandemic, though air travel was much lower than last year. The Transportation Security Administration screened more than 1 million passengers on four separate days during the Thanksgiving travel period. Since the pandemic gutted travel in March, there has been only one other day when the number of travelers topped 1 million – Oct. 18.

BIRTHS

Lakeland Medical Center – Niles

Berrien Springs – Boy, 7 pounds, 10 ounces, Bonnie and Nicholas Clark, 10:30 a.m. Nov. 25.

Three Oaks – Boy, 7 pounds, 6 ounces, Sarah Keen and Michael Warren, 8:10 p.m. Nov. 26.

Lakeland Medical Center – St. Joseph

Benton Harbor – Boy, 7 pounds, 8 ounces, Marcella Harden, 5:01 p.m. Nov. 29.

Berrien Springs – Boy, 7 pounds 12 ounces, Brittany and Joe Harden, 3:29 a.m. Dec. 1.

Berrien Springs – Girl, 7 pounds, 2 ounces, Brittany and Erik Web, 2:04 p.m. Nov. 28.

Eau Claire – Boy, 7 pounds, 1 ounce, Jessica and Kyle Froehlich, 8:10 a.m. Nov. 23.

Getting it straight

The Herald-Palladium makes every effort to ensure accuracy in its stories. If you think there is an error, please contact the editor of the page on which it occurred. If you are unsure of whom to contact, call Local News Editor Dale Brewer at 429-3797.

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DRINKING

From page A1

he said his department has not seen a significant increase in drunken driving.

From March 1 to Nov. 30, Bailey said, his deputies made 75 arrests for operating while intoxicated, compared to 73 for the same period last year. But there was a greater increase in arrests classified as operating while intoxicated with a high blood alcohol content, up from 32 from March 1 to Nov. 30, 2019, to 40 during the same period this year.

Bailey said that while people driving drunk has not been a significant problem during the pandemic, he still has concerns about increased alcohol consumption.

The World Health Organization says that alcohol compromises the body's immune system and can make the prognosis more grim for people with COVID-19 who are heavy drinkers.

Clark said the pandemic, and months of isolation, has been especially tough on people who already were battling addictions, including alcoholism.

"People are scared, uncertain, angry, depressed, you name it. The emotional roller coaster we are on now has never been seen before in my lifetime. This has created the perfect storm for addiction," he said.

"Many have worked hard to build a good business and now are not sure if they will ever get it back. Many feel hopeless. The triggers that set us off are now multiplied."

Clark said Alcoholics Anonymous was forced to cancel meetings, churches could not hold services, and "This was especially detrimental to those in the early stages of getting sober."

A Niles man who serves as a sponsor to numerous people in AA, echoed that.

Joseph spoke on the condition that his last name not be published.

"Oh, definitely," said Joseph, when asked if more recovering alcoholics are relapsing.

"We've seen a major increase. And unfortunately, some won't reach out. I do something I call 'rounds,' because some of those who have relapsed don't tell me unless I call and check on them," he said.

Joseph said he makes several phone calls a day to recovering alcoholics he sponsors in AA. And for face-to-face meetings, he said, "We've had to revert back to (secret) meetings like in the days of Bill (the founder of AA)."

He said that at one meeting held at a church during the stay-at-home order in Michigan, the state police showed up and shut the meeting down, because there were more than 10 people in attendance.

Don Campbell / HP staff

Lambrecht's Package Liquor Store in St. Joseph has seen a steady flow of customers throughout the pandemic, with drinking up as much as 25 percent, according to some estimates.

"It has become a passion for me to continue to have face-to-face meetings," he said. "Compare it to keeping chemotherapy from cancer patients. These meetings are our lifeline."

Joseph said isolation is an alcoholic's biggest enemy. He has not had a drink in 32 years, and still attends AA meetings.

"There's nothing better for us than getting together and sharing our experiences. It's our prescription for recovery," he said.

Joseph says he knows of four people who, since the start of the pandemic, drank themselves to death.

"They were because of COVID, and the restrictions that have been in place," he said. "We've struggled to find places to meet. It's especially important for newcomers or what I call some-comers."

He said some AA groups, unable to find a place to meet, have disbanded completely.

He said other groups have been meeting via Zoom, but, "There are privacy concerns. Anyone in the home where a person is on Zoom can hear what's being said, and people are concerned that the meetings are not really private."

Joseph said one AA group from Southwest Michigan was able to meet at a church in Indiana.

"We've had to reach out further and needed to cross that border. The newcomer feels nothing but fear and anxiety, and the second-most thing that will kill an addict is getting turned away from a meeting," he said.

"I myself was turned away from a meeting because there were already 10 people there," he said.

He added that, in many cases, people like him who are years, or decades, into their recovery journey will voluntarily leave a meeting so a newcomer can come in.

Veronica Hetler, manager and peer supervisor at Carol's Hope in Benton Township, said addicts depend on AA and Narcotics Anonymous "as our medicine."

She said that while meetings have been held via Zoom, "We addicts don't like change."

For many people, isolation and not being able to attend face-to-face support groups has been a huge barrier in their recovery, Hetler said.

"I myself am 13 years clean, and I would not be here today without support from my peers. My heart breaks because a lot of people have gone back (to drugs or alcohol)."

Clark said that as a man of faith, he would tell people who are struggling with isolation, depression or financial difficulties, to not turn to alcohol.

"The advice I would give is to let them know there are many, including myself, who have gone through these situations. We always looked for reasons to drink, only to discover there are thousands of excuses, but never a reason," Clark said.

"Reach out to someone. Alcoholics Anonymous is a great organization. Find an AA sponsor. Look up stories of people who have turned their lives around," he added. "There are many avenues if you really wish to live a sober life. Mine was finding out I had a Savior who would carry the burden which was too great for me. This helped me do the steps involved in my recovery program."

Contact: jswidwa@TheHP.com, 932-0359, Twitter @HPSwidwa

LEGISLATIVE ROLL CALL

This report contains House votes only. The Senate held no votes until Thursday, when it passed nearly 50 bills. Due to the volume of activity key votes from this Senate session will be included in next week's Roll Call Report. Activity like this is normal for a legislature in the final weeks of its two-year tenure.

Senate Bill 70, Create crime victim confidential address program: Passed 102 to 1 in the House

To establish an address confidentiality program for crime victims, with the state Attorney General giving a victim a "designated address" to which mail could be sent and then forwarded to the individual's current location. This location would not be subject to disclosure under open records laws, and the person could also vote in elections using the designated address.

59 Rep. Aaron Miller, R – Sturgis ..... Y
66 Rep. Beth Griffin, R – Mattawan ..... Y
78 Rep. Brad Paquette, R – Niles ..... Y
79 Rep. Pauline Wendzel, R – Bainbridge Township ..... Y
80 Rep. Mary Whiteford, R – Casco Township ..... Y

House Bill 5679, Remove retroactive restrictions from sex offender registry law: Passed 80 to 24 in the House

To revise the state's public sexual offender registry law in response to a court ruling that banned enforcing new registrations, restrictions and requirements on individual registrants if these were added after the individual was required to register. The bill would repeal provisions prohibiting a registrant from living, working or loitering in a "student safety zone," which had been invalidated by a federal court. It would also expand or revise many of the items registrants must report including phone numbers, email addresses, vehicle registrations, temporary housing changes and more.

59 Rep. Aaron Miller, R – Sturgis ..... Y
66 Rep. Beth Griffin, R – Mattawan ..... Y
78 Rep. Brad Paquette, R – Niles ..... Y
79 Rep. Pauline Wendzel, R – Bainbridge Township ..... Y
80 Rep. Mary Whiteford, R – Casco Township ..... Y

House Bill 5976, Revise certain licensed child care staff ratios: Passed 57 to 47 in the House

To allow a licensed "group child care home" that is currently permitted to take care of up to 12 minor children, and a licensed family child care home permitted to take care of up to six children, to accept an additional two children for several hours of care before and after school. A facility would have to get state permission first. As introduced, the bill would have allowed an additional five children in before- and after-school care. The bill was supported by licensees but opposed by regulators in the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and by the state's main social welfare advocacy group.

59 Rep. Aaron Miller, R – Sturgis ..... Y
66 Rep. Beth Griffin, R – Mattawan ..... Y
78 Rep. Brad Paquette, R – Niles ..... Y
79 Rep. Pauline Wendzel, R – Bainbridge Township ..... Y
80 Rep. Mary Whiteford, R – Casco Township ..... Y

House Bill 5731, Epidemic response bills – drivers license expirations: Passed 104 to 0 in the House

To extend until March 31, 2021 the deadline on renewing an expired drivers license with no fine. An earlier bill and law extended these deadlines until the end of 2020. The House passed the same extended deadlines for state identification card expirations and "enhanced" versions of both documents.

59 Rep. Aaron Miller, R – Sturgis ..... Y
66 Rep. Beth Griffin, R – Mattawan ..... Y
78 Rep. Brad Paquette, R – Niles ..... Y
79 Rep. Pauline Wendzel, R – Bainbridge Township ..... Y
80 Rep. Mary Whiteford, R – Casco Township ..... Y

SOURCE: MichiganVotes.org, a free, non-partisan website created by the Mackinac Center for Public Policy with descriptions of every bill and vote in the Michigan House and Senate.

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269-927-4012

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1995 – 25 years ago

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas for the third graders in Martha VanderWeide's class at Brown Elementary School in St. Joseph Township. The youngsters were treated to a Christmas tree from Gary and Paula Ludwig, whose son, Brian, is a class member. As luck would have it, the tree farm is a short walk down the street to Francis Wilder's. Wilder has more than 2,500 trees on a couple of acres at his residence. In addition to selecting their tree, the children got a tour of a small orchard and viewed several beehives.

1985 – 35 years ago

Expert judges selected winners in a doll-dressing contest among employees of Peoples State Bank in St. Joseph. Bank employees dressed 50 dolls provided by the Salvation Army, which will distribute the dolls to needy children.

1970 – 50 years ago

The New Buffalo Women's Club again will sponsor an area Christmas lighting contest. Entry blanks have been made available at the library and Josenhans Drug Store. The entry blanks must be returned by Dec. 23 to qualify a home for the judging on Dec. 27.

TODAY IN HISTORY

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Today is Saturday, Dec. 5, the 340th day of 2020. There are 26 days left in the year.

Highlight in history:

On Dec. 5, 2013, Nelson Mandela, the anti-apartheid leader who became South Africa's first Black president, died at age 95.

On this date:

In 1791, composer Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart died in Vienna, Austria, at age 35.

In 1792, George Washington was re-elected president; John Adams was re-elected vice president.

In 1848, President James K. Polk triggered the Gold Rush of '49 by confirming that gold had been discovered in California.

In 1932, German physicist Albert Einstein was granted a visa, making it possible for him to travel to the United States.

In 1933, national Prohibition came to an end as Utah became the 36th state to ratify the 21st Amendment to the Constitution, repealing the 18th Amendment.

In 1952, the Great Smog of London descended on the British capital; the unusually thick fog, which contained toxic pollutants, lasted five days and was blamed for causing thousands of deaths.

In 1977, Egypt broke diplomatic relations with Syria, Libya, Algeria, Iraq and South Yemen in the wake of criticism that followed President Anwar Sadat's peace overtures to Israel.

In 2002, Strom Thurmond, the oldest and (until Robert Byrd overtook him) longest-serving senator in history, celebrated his 100th birthday on Capitol Hill. (In toasting the South Carolina lawmaker, Senate Republican leader Trent Lott seemed to express nostalgia for Thurmond's segregationist past; the resulting political firestorm prompted Lott to resign his leadership position.)

5-Day Forecast for St. Joseph

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Cloudy
40°	31°	39° / 32°	40° / 33°	43° / 35°	46° / 38°

Local Outlook

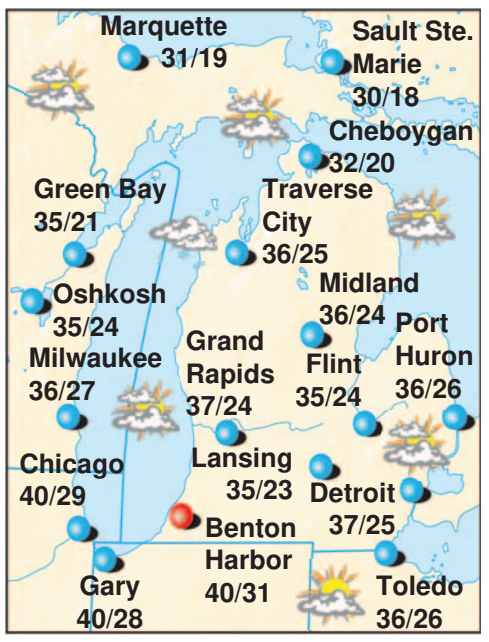
Today we will see mostly cloudy skies, high temperature of 40°, humidity of 59%. South wind 6 to 9 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies tonight, overnight low of 31°. East southeast wind 1 to 7 mph. Sunday, skies will be mostly cloudy, high of 39°, humidity of 61%.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise ..... 7:59 a.m.
Sunset ..... 5:13 p.m.
Moonrise ..... 10:11 p.m.
Moonset ..... 12:20 p.m.

Last	New	First	Full
12/7	12/14	12/21	12/29

Regional Map



Local Almanac

Benton Harbor Yesterday

Temperature

High	43°
Low	30°
Normal High	39°
Normal Low	25°
Record High	64° in 2012
Record Low	9° in 2005

Precipitation

Yesterday	0.00"
Month to date	Trace
Normal for month	0.35"
Year to date	32.03"
Normal Year to date	35.68"

Air Quality

Yesterday 59
Main Offender ..... Particles

The higher the number, the greater the need for people with respiratory problems to reduce outside activity.

0-50 ..... Good
51-100 ..... Moderate
101-150 .... Sensitive
151-200 .. Unhealthy

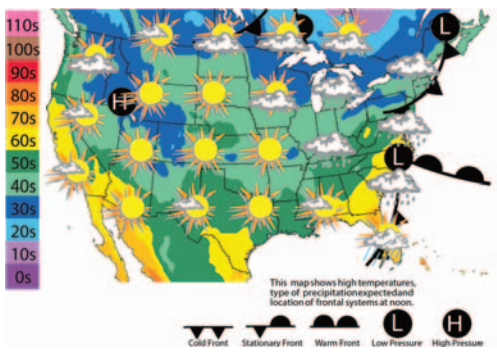
Weather Trivia

Where does the most hail fall in one year?

Answer: Kericho, Kenya.

National Weather Map

Forecast map for Dec. 5, 2020



For latest weather updates: **www.UpdatedWx.com/HP**

Lake Michigan

Today, N wind 7 to 9 kt. A slight chance of rain and snow showers. Waves 1 to 3 ft. Water temperature 43 degrees. Tonight, NNW wind 5 to 8 kt. Mostly cloudy. Waves around 1 ft.

Michigan Forecast

Upper Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with isolated snow showers, highs in the 30s. East southeast wind 6 to 9 mph. Expect mostly cloudy skies Sunday with highs in the 30s. Light winds.

Lower Peninsula

Today, skies will be mostly cloudy with highs in the 30s and 40s. South wind 6 to 9 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies Sunday with highs in the 30s. Light winds.

SOUTH HAVEN

Trampoline jumps into river, snags unsuspecting boats

By HP STAFF

SOUTH HAVEN — South Haven Department of Public Works staff found themselves fishing a trampoline out of the Black River earlier this week after several small boats became entangled by it.

City staff became aware of the issue when anglers from the South Haven Steelheaders reported that the object was a large trampoline with an attached safety cage. It was lurking about 2 feet below the river's surface.

The submerged trampoline was situated about 200 yards from the Dyckman Avenue drawbridge and had become a navigation hazard, according to City Manager Kate Hosier.

Photo contributed

South Haven Department of Public Works employees earlier this week prepare to haul a trampoline to shore after high winds blew it into the Black River.

City staff launched the Harbormaster's boat, hooked the trampoline and towed it to the Black River boat launch, where it was retrieved by the owner. It is believed the trampoline blew into the river due to recent high winds.

House votes to decriminalize marijuana at federal level

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic-controlled House on Friday approved a bill to decriminalize and tax marijuana at the federal level, reversing what supporters call a failed policy of criminalizing pot use and taking steps to address racial disparities in enforcement of federal drug laws.

Opponents, mostly Republicans, called the bill a hollow political gesture.

"With all the challenges America has right now, (Republicans) think COVID relief should be on the floor, but instead, the Democrats put cats and cannabis" on the House floor, said House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif. "They're picking weed over the workers. They're picking marijuana over (providing) the much-needed money we need to go forward" to address the pandemic.

McCarthy's comment about cats referred to a separate bill approved by the House to ban private ownership of big cats such as lions and tigers. That bill, approved by the House on Thursday, would allow most private zoos to keep their tigers and other species but would prohibit most public contact with the animals.

Democrats said they can work on COVID-19 relief and marijuana reform at the same time and noted that the House passed a major pandemic relief bill in May that has languished in the Senate.

Supporters say the pot bill would help end the decades-long "war on drugs" by removing marijuana, or cannabis, from the list of federally controlled substances while allowing states to set their own rules on pot. The bill also would use money from a new excise tax on marijuana to address the needs of groups and communities harmed by the so-called drug war and provide for the expungement of federal marijuana convictions and arrests.

"For far too long, we have treated marijuana as a criminal justice problem instead of as a matter of personal choice and public health," said Rep. Jerry Nadler, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Judiciary Committee and a key sponsor of the bill. "Whatever one's views are on the use of marijuana for recreational or medicinal use, the policy of arrests, prosecution and incarceration at the federal level has proven unwise and unjust."

RETAILERS

From page A1

Ohio, on the other hand, instituted a three-week nightly curfew and limited public gatherings. Yet its businesses remain open.

"Maybe the Ohio approach is something Michigan could do, Calley said.

But with fears the virus will again surge following Thanksgiving and Christmas, Calley remains cautious about the future of Michigan's economy – particularly for small businesses.

"I'm looking at when the health department is going to feel comfortable releasing restrictions," he said.

The restrictions, which took effect Nov. 18, are set to expire Dec. 8. However, on Thursday Gov. Gretchen Whitmer said an extension of those restrictions remains likely.

This doesn't surprise Calley.

"To get positive cases of coronavirus down, it takes 50 days," he said.

If the extension occurs, especially during a time when small businesses see an uptick in sales due to the holiday season, the economy will suffer, according to Calley.

In the meantime, he hopes the federal government finally approves more funding to help businesses stay afloat.

"It's such a financial strain on those businesses," he said. "I'm worried some sectors of businesses will close. Twenty to 25 percent of businesses are in danger or close to catastrophic failure."

HOLLAND

Meegan Holland, vice president of communications and marketing for the Michigan Retailers Association, shares these same fears.

"This is going to be a deep, dark period for retailers," Holland told the Business Summit audience. "We're worried early next year we will see stores close."

She and Calley say consumers can help in the meantime by shopping at locally owned, small businesses.

"When we lose local businesses, we lose the character of our communities," Calley said.

"The money you spend now will make a difference in how your downtown will look a year from now," Holland said.

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Family-Friendly Public House
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Expanded Outdoor Seating!
2020 Readers' Choice
South Bend TRIBUNE
Voted
Best Irish Pub
by South Bend Tribune Readers!
We are in compliance with CDC suggested guidelines.
TOUCHLESS ONLINE SERVICE
View our menu, order & pay online at:
fiddlershearth.com/order ... OR
SCAN THIS CODE WITH YOUR CAMERA APP
Once your order is placed, call us at
574-232-2853 and we will bring your food
and drinks out to you!
if online isn't your thing, Check with us inside
Trip advisor best hamburger in South Bend
One of 50 of the best Irish pubs in the country (Travel/Leisure Magazine)
New Weekend Brunch! 11am-3pm
127 N. Main Street, Downtown, South Bend
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hp SPORTS

Sandhill cranes ready to head south

Outdoors, Page B6

Photo provided

JT Gill III of the Modern Day Knights 10U flag football team goes up to catch a pass during a Southeast Regional game in Hoover, Ala. last month.

Modern Day Knights football program keeps growing

Local flag football teams will compete in national events in Florida next month

By BEN SANDERS
HP Sports Editor

The Modern Day Knights flag football program continues to grow, even in a challenging year.

The local program, started by former Lakeshore and U.S. Military Academy quarterback Jon Hall as an alternative to tackle football for younger players, will send three teams to national tournaments in Florida in January.

The U8 Knights will compete in the National Flag Football Championships in Tampa from Jan. 29-31. The U10 and U11 teams will travel to Panama City for a Flag Football World Championship Tour event on Jan. 9-10.

That will be the culmination of a busy season which included not only the three travel teams, but also a four-team recreational league at the Renaissance Athletic Club in Benton Harbor, all while trying to keep more than 100 players safe from the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Starting in July, we safely executed within government and CDC guidelines a full summer camp, fall league and travel tournament season," Hall said. "Many of the Knights played over 40 games inside of COVID. We did not have a single

See **KNIGHTS**, page B3

No. 8 Michigan St. survives scare, beats Detroit Mercy

By LARRY LAGE
Associated Press

EAST LANSING — Rocket Watts picked the right time to have his best game for Michigan State.

Michigan St. 83 Detroit Mercy 76

The sophomore guard scored a career-high 23 points and was strong defensively, helping the eighth-ranked Spartans overcome a flat start and avoid a huge upset with an 83-76 win over Detroit Mercy on Friday night.

"That's the best I've seen him play – ever," coach Tom Izzo said. "He was in control. He made good decisions."

The Spartans (4-0) were coming off a road win over No. 6 Duke earlier this week.

"Those of you that think we're ready for the national championship because we beat Duke, readjust your theories because we have a long way to go," Izzo said.

The Titans (0-1) led by five points midway through the second half of a closely contested game with 10 lead changes and nine ties, but came up short as two players fouled out.

"Our guys fought really hard," coach Mike Davis said. "We just ran out of bodies."

Detroit Mercy was led by Antoine Davis, who scored 24 points on 10-of-26 shooting while playing for his father, the former Indiana coach.

St. Bonaventure transfer Matt Johnson scored a career-high 20 points, Idaho transfer Marquell Fraser had 11 points and 12 rebounds and California Baptist transfer Bud Kuol fouled out after scoring 12 points for the Titans.

For much of the game, Detroit Mercy gave the Spartans all they could handle at both ends of the court and on the boards.

"They did what they wanted to almost and we have to learn from that," said Michigan State's Aaron Henry,

See **SPARTANS**, page B3

Carlos Osorio / AP

Michigan State guard Rocket Watts (2) and Detroit Mercy guard Antoine Davis (0) try to control the ball during the second half of Friday's game.

Mike Roemer / AP

Chicago's Mitchell Trubisky throws during the second half of a Nov. 29 game at Green Bay.

Not giving up

Nagy not throwing in towel as struggling Bears face Lions

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Matt Nagy saw it five years ago when he was an assistant on Andy Reid's staff in Kansas City. The Chiefs answered a big slump with a massive turnaround, catapulting them to the playoffs.

Nagy is hoping for something similar in his third season coaching Chicago.

The Bears look to break a five-game losing streak when they host the Detroit Lions in a matchup of struggling teams on Sunday.

"I was on a team in a previous life where we lost five in a row," Nagy said. "We lost five in a row and we went ahead and won 10 in a row, and I remember the feeling of what it was like, and it was very similar to right now. And so, at that point in time though, we got that one win and, man, it felt different going into that next week for everybody."

The Chiefs were reeling with five straight losses after opening 2015 with a victory at Houston. But they won their final 10 regular-season games, starting with a victory over Le'Veon Bell and the Pittsburgh Steelers. They kept it going with a 30-0 wild-card romp at Houston before getting knocked out by Tom Brady and the New England Patriots.

The Bears (5-6) are on their worst skid since they dropped five in a row in 2017 – former coach John Fox's final season.

Even when they were 5-1, there were big problems on offense. Lately, a defense that ranked among the top 10 for most of the season hasn't been able to carry them. And last week's blowout by Green Bay was particularly ugly.

Mitchell Trubisky committed three turnovers, the defense gave up four touchdown passes by Aaron Rodgers and the Bears lost 41-25 at Lambeau Field.

Chicago has switched quarterbacks, with Nick Foles replacing Trubisky in a Week 3 comeback at Atlanta. Trubisky returned to the lineup last week with Foles sidelined by a hip and glute injury. In between, Nagy handed play-calling duties to offensive coordinator Bill Lazor, but nothing has really worked. And if the Bears can't beat the Lions (4-7) at Soldier Field, then what?

Detroit cleaned house last week, firing general manager Bob Quinn and coach Matt Patricia following a 41-25 Thanksgiving loss to Houston. The Lions elevated offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell to interim coach for the final five games.

"I'm just going to be myself," Bevell said. "Like I said, I'm asking the guys to come in with refreshed attitude, ready to work, No. 1, but ready to have a good time and let them play with their hair on fire."

Mitchell has their number

Trubisky has three touchdown passes in each of his past four meetings with the Lions. That includes a season-opening 27-23 win in which he threw three TDs in the fourth quarter to rally Chicago from 17 points down.

Just win

Much has been made of Detroit's locker room climate under Patricia – and whether it might improve under Bevell, who has been clear he wants his team to enjoy these next few weeks. Matthew Stafford said wins and losses have a way of shaping perceptions of how well liked a coach was.

"I think everybody's experiences are going to be seen through the lens of kind of wins and losses," the quarterback said. "If you have this lens of a bunch of success and a bunch of wins, everybody has a great look on it, and if it's the opposite, I think it can turn it a little bit worse than maybe it was. I think the biggest thing is to win. That's not a head-coach-by-himself thing or a

See **BEARS**, page B3

U-M pessimistic about playing Ohio St. game as COVID-19 details emerge

By CHRIS THOMAS and DAVID JESSE
Detroit Free Press (TNS)

University of Michigan athletic officials are pessimistic about their ability to travel to Columbus in two Saturdays for their annual football game against Ohio State, three people with direct knowledge of the situation told the Free Press.

The pessimism comes as officials conduct contact tracing and await testing results on players and staff. At least a dozen members of the football program tested positive for COVID-19 earlier this week, causing a shutdown of the program and this Saturday's game against Maryland, sources said. The sources requested anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the outbreak.

The contact tracing and the concern about more positive tests stems from the hours after last week's loss to Penn State, the Free Press has learned.

According to the three sources, players were present at a number of small gatherings after the Penn State game to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday. It's hard to pinpoint the exact role of those gatherings in the outbreak, sources said, but there is belief in the program that Saturday played a role in accelerating the outbreak. The gatherings are believed to have taken place in settings among players and also in settings among parents and players, sources said.

U-M had worked to discourage any gatherings over the Thanksgiving weekend, including during a mid-week call last week with players' families to tell them not to gather, program spokesman David Ablauf told the Free Press.

It's not unusual for players to eat together, he added.

"Many of our players live together so they could have chosen to eat together just like any other day of the week; even though eating in groups has been discouraged by the staff throughout the season," Ablauf said. "In keeping with the daily plan and process, players were provided grab-and-go Thanksgiving meals so they could eat at their place of residence."

On Wednesday, Michigan announced it was pausing all in-person football activities until at least Monday. No decision has been made beyond that date, Ablauf said.

In his weekly news conference this week, Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh acknowledged at least one player tested positive before Saturday's game against Penn State. On Monday, the program shifted to virtual team activities while it awaited confirmatory testing results.

"Everybody's tested daily," Harbaugh said Monday. "We've been tested four times since Friday and every day before that. Even if they're a presumptive positive the day before the game, night before the game, they're not allowed to play, which we've had, too."

It's unclear what the current COVID-19 positivity rate is within the Michigan football program (Michigan athletics discloses combined positivity rates among all sports every Friday, but not team by team). According to Big Ten guidelines, teams must stop practicing and cease all competition when its population positivity rate – the number of positive tests divided by the number

See **WOLVERINES**, page B3

Adam Hunger / AP

Former New York Yankees DJ LeMahieu hits an RBI single during the second inning of a baseball game against the Toronto Blue Jays on Sept. 15. LeMahieu is a free agent.

Bauer, LeMahieu, Springer top list of available free agents

By NOAH TRISTER
AP Baseball Writer

The free agent market received a small boost this week, although it remains to be seen whether teams will be eager to take advantage.

A record 59 players became free agents when their teams declined to offer them contracts by Wednesday night's tender deadline. That group included a few well-known names like Kyle Schwarber of the Chicago Cubs and Eddie Rosario of the Minnesota Twins – but these additions to the free agent class did little to change the sense the market could be slow this offseason.

Teams may be looking to cut costs amid the coronavirus pandemic, and so far there have been only a few short deals, such as Charlie Morton going to Atlanta on a one-year, $15 million contract and Mike Minor signing with Kansas City for two years and $18 million.

As we enter the heart of the offseason calendar, here's a look at the top free agents still available, broken down by position. The biggest names on the market are players who were already free agents well before the new group of non-tenders joined the pool.

Players are listed with their most recent teams, with their ages in parentheses:

Left-handed starter

James Paxton, Yankees (32)

Paxton made just five starts this year because of problems with his pitching arm, but a string of solid seasons leading up to that make him a potentially valuable pickup if teams aren't scared off by his health.

Other options: Injury problems limited Jose Quintana to only 10 innings this season, but he made at least 31 starts in each of the previous seven years. Quintana's teammate with the Chicago Cubs, Jon Lester, can still log plenty of innings but his 5.16 ERA this year was the worst of his career.

Left-handed reliever

Brad Hand, Indians (30)

Hand converted all 16 of his save attempts and then promptly had his $10 million option declined by Cleveland. That was certainly an ominous sign for the market.

Other options: Jose Alvarez hasn't been a closer, but he's been dependable for several seasons with the Phillies and Angels. Sean Doolittle is coming off an injury-plagued season and may be past his best days at 34.

Right-handed starter

Trevor Bauer, Reds (29)

The last time a Cy Young Award winner switched teams via free agency was when Greg Maddux went from the Cubs to the Braves following the 1992 season. Bauer is now in a position to do the same, and although this might not be an ideal offseason for obtaining a big contract, he certainly entered it on a high.

Other options: Masahiro Tanaka posted a 3.56 ERA, his best in four years. Jake Odorizzi was coming off a nice 2019 but couldn't build on it because of injuries.

Right-handed reliever

Liam Hendriks, Athletics (31)

Coming off back-to-back stellar seasons as Oakland's closer, Hendricks has a strong case as the top reliever available.

Other options: Kirby Yates was sensational in 2018 and 2019, but elbow issues this year may give teams pause. Mark Melancon had his ups and downs after signing a $62 million, four-year contract with San Francisco, but he was decent enough for Atlanta in 2020 in the final season of that deal. Archie Bradley is available after being non-tendered by Cincinnati.

Catcher

J.T. Realmuto, Phillies (29)

A two-time All-Star, Realmuto has been remarkably consistent with the bat over the past few seasons and stands out as one of the top position players on the market.

Other options: It's hard to imagine Yadier Molina elsewhere after 17 seasons with St. Louis, but he's a free agent so it's possible. James McCann came into his own the past couple years with the Chicago White Sox and entered free agency after posting a career-high OPS of .896 in 2020.

First base

Carlos Santana, Indians (34)

Santana is older than some of the other big names on this list, but he played all 60 games this season and 158 in 2019. After hitting 34 homers in 2019, he batted just .199 this year. A small-sample dip or a sign of a more meaningful decline?

Other options: Derek Dietrich can play plenty of positions in addition to first. C.J. Cron has shown he can hit for power but is coming off a significant knee injury. Eric Thames hit 25 homers in 2019 but batted only .203 this year. Danny Santana was non-tendered by Texas after a poor season at the plate, but he did hit 28 homers in 2019.

Second base

DJ LeMahieu, Yankees (32)

A two-time batting champion who made the jump into MVP contention the past couple years, LeMahieu can fill an up-the-middle position with a consistently productive bat. He should be one of this offseason's top targets.

Other options: Kolten Wong just turned 30, and Jonathan Villar is even younger than that at 29.

Third base

Justin Turner, Dodgers (36)

Turner caught some heat for his lack of social distancing at the end of the World Series. Prospective suitors are probably more concerned with his age, but he has hit over .300 in three of the past four seasons.

Other options: Also helping Turner's value is the fact it's slim pickings at this position. Brad Miller has hit well the past couple years but hasn't played anything close to a full season since 2016.

Marwin Gonzalez brings versatility but did not have a good 2020 with the bat. Travis Shaw was let go by Toronto, but at age 30, he could still recapture the form that produced back-to-back 30-homer years in 2017 and 2018.

Shortstop

Marcus Semien, Athletics (30)

Semien hit 33 home runs in 2019. His production dipped significantly this season, and if that causes his price to drop, he could be a steal.

Other options: Andrelton Simmons offers defensive wizardry – and has almost hit .300 a couple times. Didi Gregorius is back on the market after a solid season in Philadelphia.

Outfield

George Springer, Astros (31)
Marcell Ozuna, Braves (30)
Michael Brantley, Astros (33)

Ozuna led the National League with 18 home runs this year, and the two Houston outfielders are proven commodities as well. There's plenty to pick from at this position.

Other options: Joc Pederson is coming off a good postseason and can provide reasonably predictable production – a low batting average and plenty of power. Even with the addition of the designated hitter to the National League, Kyle Schwarber still played 48 games in the outfield. But he hit .188 before being non-tendered by the Cubs. The Twins moved on from Eddie Rosario despite fairly consistent production the past few years.

Adam Eaton wasn't great this season but had a solid track record prior to 2020 as an outfielder who can get on base. Jackie Bradley Jr. is four years removed from his All-Star season of 2016, but he did hit a career-best .283 this year.

Brett Gardner will be 38 next August but established career highs in homers and OPS not too long ago in 2019.

Designated hitter

Nelson Cruz, Twins (40)

After 16 more home runs in this extremely abbreviated season, Cruz is up to 417 for his career and still rolling along. He's also hit over .300 the past two years.

Other options: Edwin Encarnacion had 10 homers in 2020, but that was 40 percent of his total hits for the season and he finished with a .157 average. The DH's inclusion in the National League gave Howie Kendrick a chance to fill that role a bit with Washington, although a hamstring injury cut the 37-year-old's season short.

NFL further limits player access to facilities amid virus

By BARRY WILNER
AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL is further limiting player access to team facilities as it attempts to enhance safety measures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a memo sent to the 32 clubs and obtained by The Associated Press, teams must close their facilities for two days after games, with some exceptions.

Beginning Monday, that all teams playing on a Sunday must close those facilities the next two days – except for clubs playing on the subsequent Thursday. Only players needing medical attention for injuries or in rehab programs may enter the team complex.

Coaches can access the facility but must work in their own offices and can't conduct meetings except virtually.

Teams playing on Monday nights can next have players in their facilities on Thursday, and teams with Thursday night games must close the complex to players until Sunday.

"There are no exceptions to this prohibition," the league wrote. "Approvals previously received for in-person meetings will not apply on these two days."

Locker rooms and cafeterias must be closed during those days.

Tryouts will be permitted on those days with only "essential football personnel" attending. Players trying out for a team are subject to current testing rules.

Such arrangements were agreed to by the players' union.

USA Today first reported the memo being sent to the clubs.

The NFL also is lifting the 62-player game travel limit for teams. Each team can determine how many players to take to road games, including practice squad players. That takes effect for this week's games, and should help with filling out the 48-man roster in case of issues with the coronavirus on game days.

All players who attend games for both home and visiting teams and will be on the sideline or in a designated stadium space with other players and personnel must stay at the team hotel the night before the game.

NFL protocols have been adjusted constantly since training camps, with stiffer restrictions put in place in recent weeks as the nation undergoes a surge in the novel coronavirus.

The league had its second major outbreak in the last two weeks, with the Baltimore Ravens having at least two dozen people testing positive.

That led to shuffling Baltimore games at Pittsburgh from Thanksgiving night to last Sunday, then to Tuesday and again to Wednesday, when the Steelers won 19-14.

"Finally," the league wrote in the memo, "please remind all players and staff that gatherings among players and/or club staff of any number outside of the club facility are prohibited at all times pursuant to the intensive protocol."

'My point guard': Brooks eager to reunite with Westbrook

By TIM REYNOLDS
AP Basketball Writer

Scott Brooks was in his fourth game as interim coach of the Oklahoma City Thunder, who were off to a disastrous 1-16 start. The night on Nov. 29, 2008, he gave Russell Westbrook his first career start, putting him at point guard even though there were questions about whether the talented rookie could play that position.

The Thunder won.

Brooks and Westbrook were off and running, joined at the hip, winning 62 percent of their games together over the next six years and getting to the NBA Finals in 2012. They're now reunited in Washington, with Westbrook going to the Wizards earlier this week in a trade that sent John Wall to Houston.

"Russell never gave me any reason to ever have any doubt in his ability," Brooks said Friday, shortly before the Wizards had their first training-camp practice. "There were many times, early in his career, I was being asked, 'Why are you doing this? Why are you doing that? He's not a point guard, he's not this, he's not that.' And that was all fine.

"I didn't care what the people were telling me what he's not. I saw and I coach what players do. And he was my point guard."

Westbrook has made the NBA Finals just the one time back in 2012, when the Thunder lost to the Miami Heat. Even at 32 years old now, Westbrook is still dynamic – he averaged 27.2 points last season playing alongside NBA scoring champion James Harden in Houston. He shot a career-best 47 percent and had eight triple-doubles, pulling him within 35 of Oscar Robertson's career record of 181.

But something that he did off the court, and intended to do quietly, wound up really piquing the Wizards' interest. Westbrook left an $8,000 tip for the housekeepers at Walt Disney World when Houston's time in the NBA's restart bubble. Washington general manager Tommy Sheppard had clamored for a chance to land Westbrook for years, and hearing about that gesture made him want to bring him to the Wizards even more.

That tip is pocket change for Westbrook; he's slated to make about $41 million this season. But to Sheppard, it still spoke to his character.

"When I look at what a player is about some things really speak very loudly to me," Sheppard said. "And I had no reservations whatsoever about the player we were acquiring. Russell kind of carries himself in a way that if you're not on his team, he doesn't let a lot of people inside. ... But hearing a story like that, that's a Wizard, that's something that we really want here."

It came at a big cost. Wall was beloved by the Wizards and their fans. But he's missed nearly two full years with injuries.

Longtime Cubs TV announcer Kasper joins White Sox radio team

By ANDREW SELIGMAN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — Len Kasper, the longtime TV play-by-play broadcaster for the Chicago Cubs, is joining the radio booth of the crosstown White Sox.

Kasper, who spent 16 seasons on the North Side, will call games alongside former major leaguer Darrin Jackson. He replaces Andy Masur, who took over after longtime announcer Ed Farmer died in April. Kasper also will work 20 to 25 games as a member of the TV broadcast team.

A Michigan native, Kasper cited the childhood influence of the late Ernie Harwell in making the move, as well as a desire to call a World Series.

"Ernie was the hero who became a mentor and a good friend. ... I wanted to paint the picture of the great game of baseball on the radio like he did for me growing up," an emotional Kasper said Friday. "I want to call postseason games. I want to be behind the microphone to call a World Series. My career took some amazing twists and turns. I missed that exit on the highway."

Kasper had an up-close view in 2016 as the Cubs marched toward their first World Series championship since 1908. They've made the playoffs five of the past six years, but haven't won a postseason series since 2017. The Cubs are also in transition, with Theo Epstein recently stepping down as president of baseball operations and general manager Jed Hoyer promoted to replace him.

The White Sox, led by AL MVP José Abreu and young stars like Tim Anderson and ace Lucas Giolito, made the playoffs for the first time since 2008 and ended a string of seven losing seasons with a 35-25 record. They then let former manager Rick Renteria go in what the team said was a mutual decision and replaced him with Hall of Famer Tony La Russa.

Kasper previously called games for the Florida Marlins (2002-2004) and Milwaukee Brewers (1999-2001).

Photo provided

Kaden Griffiths of the U11 Modern Day Knights flag football team runs with the ball during a Southeast Regional game in Hoover, Ala. last month.

KNIGHTS

From page B1

transmission of COVID."

Hall said that safety measures included daily cleaning of footballs and benches. Parents were told to make sure uniforms were cleaned between each practice, and keep kids home at even the slighest sign of illness.

An important consideration was not only physical health, but the mental health of the children involved, who were often isolated due to the pandemic.

"We really saw the kids struggling, especially parents with a kid that didn't have siblings," Hall said. "The kids need to be around their friends, need that physical activity, need that structure."

The Knights program started in 2017 with one U8 travel team, which is now at the U11 level. Hall hoped that keeping tackling out of the game until middle school would help players develop, and so far he's been impressed with what he's seen – not only from his own team, but other top teams from around the country that they compete against.

"The kids' routes are so crisp," Hall said. "The ability to catch the ball above their head, to move in space. We've taught kids how to read defenses. I believe this is the future of football development."

The Knights have also introduced a tackle football preparation program for older players to help prepare them for the jump to middle school.

"It was always about bridging them into tackle football at a time when they were ready," Hall said. "The kids feel like they earned the right to play tackle, which I think is a really cool concept."

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SPARTANS

From page B1

who had 12 points, 10 rebounds, six assists and three steals. "We have to play tough and play with some grit."

Detroit Mercy's last win over a Top 10 team on the road was in 1979 at Marquette when the Titans had future NBA players, including Earl Cureton and the late Terry Duerod.

Gabe Brown scored 16 points and Joey Hauser added 10 points for the Spartans, who leaned on Watts in the second half as he scored 12 points and had all four of his assists without a turnover.

"He was dynamite, scoring and getting guys open shots," Henry said. "He was everywhere. He was guarding their best player (Davis) and scoring for us. He was huge for us. He's growing a whole lot and the sky is the limit."

Big picture

Detroit Mercy: The Horizon League team played its first game after having three canceled due to COVID-19 issues.

One staff member tested positive and some players were deemed close contacts, making them unavailable to play.

"Those games we missed helped us get some extra practice with the guys," Mike Davis said.

Michigan State: Coming off the school's first win at Duke, a letdown was not surprising. It still didn't sit well with Izzo.

"Very big trap game," he said.

Injury report

Spartans guard Joshua Langford warmed up for the game, but was held out as a precaution because he has a sore knee. Izzo said the decision to rest Langford was made by coaches and the team's athletic trainer, adding he will play in the next two days.

"It's not day to day that we're managing him," Izzo said.

Hauser was slowed by a knee injury.

"He couldn't move very good," Izzo said.

The Titans, meanwhile, were without forward Chris Brandon due to a wrist injury.

Cheering section

Michigan State players on the bench chanted, "Defense! De-fense!" during the game in an attempt to create some excitement in the fan-free Breslin Center.

"I put that as a No. 1 priority, believe it or not," Izzo said. "We are in some strange times."

Going deep

The Spartans played six reserves, including freshman A.J. Hoggard. The guard had four points, four rebounds and two assists in 19 minutes after going scoreless in two games and not playing at Duke.

Up next

Detroit Mercy plays at Notre Dame on Sunday night.

Michigan State hosts Western Michigan on Sunday night and plays No. 15 Virginia on the road Wednesday night, their fourth game in eight days.

BEARS

From page B1

GM-by-himself thing. That's a team thing."

Mack attack

Chicago's Khalil Mack looked like he was poised to hit double digits in sacks after getting 6 1-2 through the first eight games. With none in the past three, the three-time All-Pro needs to pick up the pace. He has just nine tackles in that span and no quarterback hits.

Mack had 8 1-2 sacks last season after four straight years in double digits. It was his lowest total since he had four as a rookie with Oakland in 2014.

Still in charge

Bevell will continue to call the offensive plays.

"That's what I was brought in here for," he said. "I'm comfortable. I think the players are comfortable with the language, with the voice."

Calling out 'D'

Nagy raised a few eyebrows this week when he challenged the Bears in a way he never had, particularly since much of it was directed at the defense rather than his struggling offense.

Nagy said he is "extremely close" with those players and they were also frustrated. He has "zero concern" his comments would divide the locker room.

"I think that they respect and understand where I'm coming from because they believe the same thing," Nagy said.

WOLVERINES

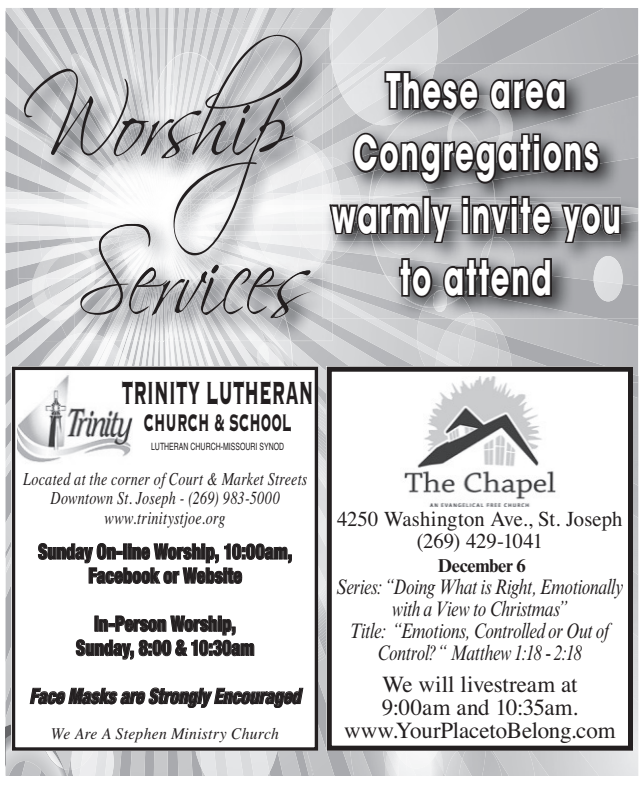
From page B1

of people within a program, including players, coaches, support staff and medical personnel – exceeds 7.5%.

The outbreak comes despite Michigan being outspoken about its successful implementation of player safety protocols during the pandemic.

The news has helped to fuel conspiracy theories – including from ESPN analyst Kirk Herbstreit – that the Wolverines, who are 2-4 this season, might try to avoid playing No. 4 Ohio State (4-0) to avoid an embarrassing defeat and also sabotage the Buckeyes' bid for a Big Ten championship. (OSU must play Saturday against Michigan State, then next week against the Wolverines to have enough games to qualify for the conference title game.)

"I have to pause because my words, the anger, I was infuriated by the insinuation that Michigan would do anything other than play a football game," Michigan athletic director Warden Manuel said Wednesday, in a stern rebuke of Herbstreit's comments.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SCOREBOARD

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	8	3	0	.727	299	282
Miami	7	4	0	.636	284	205
New England	5	6	0	.455	229	255
N.Y. Jets	0	11	0	.000	152	322
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Tennessee	8	3	0	.727	324	285
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	302	253
Houston	4	7	0	.364	268	297
Jacksonville	1	10	0	.091	227	325
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Pittsburgh	11	0	0	1.000	317	188
Cleveland	8	3	0	.727	265	286
Baltimore	6	5	0	.545	282	214
Cincinnati	2	8	1	.227	230	289
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Kansas City	10	1	0	.909	348	238
Las Vegas	6	5	0	.545	292	319
Denver	4	7	0	.364	209	298
L.A. Chargers	3	8	0	.273	277	300

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	4	7	0	.364	214	253
Washington	4	7	0	.364	241	243
Phila.	3	7	1	.318	237	277
Dallas	3	8	0	.273	251	359
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
New Orleans	9	2	0	.818	326	225
Tampa Bay	7	5	0	.583	344	280
Atlanta	4	7	0	.364	295	281
Carolina	4	8	0	.333	280	300
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Green Bay	8	3	0	.727	349	283
Chicago	5	6	0	.455	216	250
Minnesota	5	6	0	.455	292	305
Detroit	4	7	0	.364	252	328
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**
Seattle	8	3	0	.727	341	304
L.A. Rams	7	4	0	.636	263	215
Arizona	6	5	0	.545	304	258
San Francisco	5	6	0	.455	261	254

Wednesday's Game

Pittsburgh 19, Baltimore 14

Sunday's Games

Cincinnati at Miami, 1 p.m.
Cleveland at Tennessee, 1 p.m.
Detroit at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Houston, 1 p.m.
Jacksonville at Minnesota, 1 p.m.
Las Vegas at N.Y. Jets, 1 p.m.
New Orleans at Atlanta, 1 p.m.
L.A. Rams at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
New England at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m.
Phila. at Green Bay, 4:25 p.m.
Denver at Kansas City, 8:20 p.m.
Open: Carolina, Tampa Bay

Monday's Games

Washington at Pittsburgh, 5 p.m.
Buffalo at San Francisco, 8:15 p.m.

Tuesday's Game

Dallas at Baltimore, 8:05 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 10

New England at L.A. Rams, 8:20 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 13

Arizona at N.Y. Giants, 1 p.m.
Dallas at Cincinnati, 1 p.m.
Denver at Carolina, 1 p.m.
Houston at Chicago, 1 p.m.
Kansas City at Miami, 1 p.m.
Minnesota at Tampa Bay, 1 p.m.
Tennessee at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.
Indianapolis at Las Vegas, 4:05 p.m.
N.Y. Jets at Seattle, 4:05 p.m.
Atlanta at L.A. Chargers, 4:25 p.m.
Green Bay at Detroit, 4:25 p.m.
New Orleans at Phila., 4:25 p.m.
Washington at San Francisco, 4:25 p.m.
Pittsburgh at Buffalo, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 14

Baltimore at Cleveland, 8:15 p.m.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

College Football Schedule

Thursday, Dec. 3

La. Tech 42, North Texas 31
Air Force 35, Utah St. 7

Friday, Dec. 4

La.-Lafayette (8-1) at App. St. (7-2)

Saturday, Dec. 5

Penn St. (1-5) at Rutgers (2-4), Noon
Texas A&M (6-1) at Auburn (5-3), Noon
W. Carolina (0-2) at UNC (6-3), Noon
Memphis (6-2) at Tulane (5-5), Noon
Arkansas (3-5) at Missouri (4-3), Noon
Texas (5-3) at Kansas St. (4-5), Noon
Nebraska (1-4) at Purdue (2-3), Noon
Toledo (2-2) at N. Illinois (0-4), Noon
Ohio St. (4-0) at Michigan St. (2-3), Noon
Kansas (0-8) at Texas Tech (3-6), Noon
Oklahoma St. (6-2) at TCU (4-4), Noon
Liberty (9-1) at Coastal Carolina (9-0), 2 p.m.
Bowling Green (0-4) at Akron (0-4), 2 p.m.
E. Michigan (0-4) at W. Michigan (4-0), 2 p.m.
Syracuse (1-9) at Notre Dame (9-0), 2:30 p.m.
Florida (7-1) at Tennessee (2-5), 3:30 p.m.
Boston C. (6-4) at Virginia (4-4), 3:30 p.m.
West Virginia (5-3) at ISU (7-2), 3:30 p.m.
Indiana (5-1) at Wisconsin (2-1), 3:30 p.m.
Iowa (4-2) at Illinois (2-3), 3:30 p.m.
Georgia Tech (3-5) at NC State (7-3), 4 p.m.
Vanderbilt (0-8) at Georgia (6-2), 4 p.m.
Hawaii (3-3) at San Jose St. (4-0), 4 p.m.
Stanford (1-2) at Washington (3-0), 4 p.m.
BSU (3-1) at Cent. Michigan (3-1), 5:30 p.m.
Oregon (3-1) at California (0-3), 7 p.m.
Colorado (3-0) at Arizona (0-3), 7 p.m.
Colorado St. (1-2) at SDSU (3-3), 7 p.m.
SCAR (2-7) at Kentucky (3-6), 7:30 p.m.
Clemson (8-1) at Virginia Tech (4-5), 7:30 p.m.
Miami (7-1) at Duke (2-7), 8 p.m.
Alabama (8-0) at LSU (3-4), 8 p.m.
Baylor (2-5) at Oklahoma (6-2), 8 p.m.
Oregon St. (2-2) at Utah (0-2), 10:30 p.m.
Fresno St. (3-1) at Nevada (5-1), 10:30 p.m.
Wyoming (2-2) at New Mex. (0-5), 10:30 p.m.
UCLA (2-2) at Arizona St. (0-1), 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 6

Washington St. (1-1) at USC (3-0), 7:30 p.m.

Postponements and Cancellations

FAU (5-1) at Georgia Southern (6-4), ppd.
Tulsa (5-1) at Navy (3-5), ppd.
La.-Monroe (0-9) at Arkansas St. (3-7), ppd.
Troy (4-5) at South Alabama (4-6), ppd.
Rice (1-2) at Marshall (7-0), ppd.
FIU (0-5) at Charlotte (2-3), ppd.
Cincinnati (8-0) at Tulsa (5-1), ppd.
Wake Forest (4-3) at Louisville (3-7), ppd.
Miami (7-1) at Wake Forest (4-3), ppd.
Mississippi (4-4) at LSU (3-4), ppd.
Houston (3-3) at Memphis (6-2), ppd.
Missouri (4-3) at Mississippi St. (2-6), ppd.
Florida St. (2-6) at Duke (2-7), ppd.
North Carolina (6-3) at Miami (7-1), ppd.
Louisiana-Monroe (0-9) at Troy (4-5), ppd.
UAB (4-3) at Middle Tenn. (3-6), ppd.
Arkansas (3-5) at Alabama (8-0), ppd.
W. Kentucky (4-6) at Charlotte (2-3), ppd.
Boise St. (4-1) at UNLV (0-5), ccd.
So. Miss (2-7) at UTEP (3-4), ccd.
Buffalo (4-0) at Ohio (2-1), ccd.
N'western (5-1) at Minnesota (2-3) ccd.
Maryland (2-2) at Michigan (2-4), ccd.
Kent St. (3-1) at Miami (Ohio) (2-1), ccd.
Houston (3-3) at SMU (7-3), ccd.

TRANSACTIONS

BASEBALL

Major League Baseball

American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Acquired INF Christian Koss from Colarado in exchange for LHP Yoan Aybar.

OAKLAND ATHLETICS — Announced Mark Kotsay will move from quality control coach to third base coach.

SEATTLE MARINERS — Named Brendan Domaracki director of player personnel, David Hesslink assistant director of baseball projects, Frankie Piliere assistant director of amateur scouting, Sam Reinertsen coordinator of advance scouting, Skylar Shibayama manager of data strategy, Emanuel Sifuentes assistant director of player development and Jesse Smith senior director of analytics. Signed 1B Sam Travis to a minor league contract.

TEXAS RANGERS — Signed RHP Joe Gatto. Re-signed OF Scott Heineman.

National League

COLORADO ROCKIES — Acquired LHP yoan Aybar from Boston in exchange for INF Christian Koss.

Minor League Baseball

Frontier League

GATEWAY GRIZZLIES — Exercised the 2021 contract options on INF Cody Regis, C Dashenko Ricardo, RHP Nick Kennedy, INF Jose Rosario, INF Christian Ibarra, LHP Sebastian Kessay, RHP Jason Zgardowski, LHP Jordan Barrett, RHP Lucas Lanphere, INF Connor Owings, INF Brett Sakurai, INF Brian Sharp, LHP Aaron Ford, UT Andrew Penner, OF Dustin Woodcock, INF Matt Brown, OF Eddie Haus, INF Lucas Navigato, INF Hank LoForte, RHP Neil Uskali, RHP Matt Vonderschmidt, LHP Cole Cook, LHP Jake McSteen, 1B Matt Warkentin, LHP Josh Norwood, and RHP Austin Rubick. Declined the options on INF Brett Bond, RHP Austin Rubick.

NEW JERSEY JACKELS — Acquired RHP Tom Burns from Sussex for RHP Tyler Suellentrop and a player to be named later.

QUEBEC CAPITALES — Signed OF Riley Pittman to a contract extension.

SUSSEX COUNTY MINERS — Signed OF Isaac Benard and RHP Kevin Grendell to contract extensions. Exercised the 2021 contract options on OF Blake Adams, RHP Mike Appel, LHP Joe Baran, INF Jake Veith, INF Trevor Achenbach, C Austin Biggar, C Daniel Herrera, RHP Tyler Danish, RHP Kida De La Cruz, LHP Felix Dieguez, RHP Michael Hope, OF Aaron Knapp, INF Jett Manning, INF Derwin Pomare, INF Adam Sasser, OF Omar Carrizales, and OF Danny Mars.

WINDY CITY THUNDERBOLTS — Signed RHP Kyle Johnson, OF Matt Koehler, RHP Sean Leland, INF Brynn Martinez, and RHP Tyler Thornton to contract extensions.

FOOTBALL

National Football League

NFL — Announced the conditional reinstatement of WR Josh Gordon from Seattle.

ARIZONA CARDINALS — Activated S Deionte Thompson from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS — Signed P Ryan Allen to the practice squad. Activated DT/DE Denico Autry from the reserve/COVID-19 list.

LAS VEGAS RAIDERS — Placed LB Tanner Muse on the reserve/COVID-19 list.

LOS ANGELES RAMS — Waived OLB Jachai Polite.

MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Re-signed LB Hardy Nickerson to the practice squad.

NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS — Claimed LB Jack Circhy off waivers from Tampa Bay.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Terminated the practice squad contract of CB Chris Williamson.

NEW YORK JETS — Placed LB Blake Cashman on injured reserve.

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES — Activated WR Deontay Burnett from the practice squad COVID-19 list.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS — Placed OLB Bud Dupree on injured reserve. Signed S Anotoine Brooks to the active roster

SAN FRANCISCO 49ERS — Activated TE Daniel Helm from the reserve/COVID-19 list. Released TE Daniel Helm from the practice squad.

HOCKEY

East Coast Hockey League

ALLEN AMERICANS — Signed F Samuel Laberge.

GREENVILLW SWAMP RABBITS — Released G Hayden Hawkey.

ORLANDO SOLAR BEARS — Signed F Erik Bradford to training camp roster. Released GF Alex Gilmour, F J.M. Piotrowski, F Ethan Skinner and F Isaiah Crawford.

TULSA OILERS — Added D Alex Brooks and D Shane Switzer to training camp roster.

UTAH GRIZZLIES — Added D Tanner Jago, D Garrett Johnston and F Jared Pike. Acquired F Joe Wegwerth and Matt Abt from Colorado (AHL).

WHEELING NAILERS — Signed G Max Milosek to tryout agreement and added to training camp roster.

COLLEGE

AUSTIN PEAY STATE UNIVERSITY — Named Austin Silvoy the football co-offensive and wide receiver coach.

FERRUM COLLEGE — Named Carrie Austin to assistant athletic director

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Bruce Thorn
President, CEO, & Army veteran

Black households were saving more – then came COVID-19

Michelle Singletary

Trying to advocate for saving more during the COVID-19 pandemic isn't an easy sell.

For millions of people there's nothing – or not enough – coming in to save. The last of the COVID-related financial relief for the unemployed and federal student loan borrowers is slated to end Dec. 31.

While a crisis isn't an ideal time to push the savings message, the economic fallout from the coronavirus emphasizes how having an emergency fund can make a difference, says George Barany, director of America Saves.

"We're certainly not tone deaf to that situation by any means, but it seems like this is an opportunity to support those people who really need to establish emergency savings," Barany said.

Overall, one in four adults have had trouble paying their bills since the pandemic outbreak, according to a September survey by the Pew Research Center. One-third of Americans have dipped into savings or retirement accounts to make ends meet, and about one in six have borrowed money from friends or family or gotten groceries from a food bank, the report said. "These types of experiences continue to be more common among adults with lower incomes, those without a college degree and Black and Hispanic Americans," Pew said.

Black households have been especially hard hit by the COVID economic fallout.

"The outsized challenges that Black Americans are facing are a reflection of the generally diminished economic position and health status that they faced before this crisis," wrote Bradley Hardy, a nonresident senior fellow for the Brookings Institution, and Trevon Logan, an economics professor at Ohio State University, in a recent policy paper. "Several pre-COVID-19 economic conditions – including lower levels of income and wealth, higher unemployment, and greater levels of food and housing insecurity – leave Black families with fewer buffers to absorb economic shocks."

In a report scheduled for release next week, the nonprofit Consumer Federation of America (CFA) analyzed the finances and savings of Black households before and during the pandemic. Not surprisingly, the report found that Black households had less net worth and savings compared with White households. America Saves is a campaign coordinated by CFA to advocate for fee-free savings accounts and automatic savings initiatives by financial institutions and employers.

Here's something noteworthy in the CFA report: Between 2010 and 2019, the percentage of Black households that saved rose from 39 percent to 47 percent, an increase of 21 percent, according to the Federal Reserve's 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances.

CFA notes that the Fed data found many Black households negatively impacted by the Great Recession had begun to make a slow but steady recovery. Although only 35 percent of Black households had retirement accounts, the median assets in those accounts increased 67 percent to $35,000 in 2019 from $20,900 in 2013.

"Black households were better prepared than years earlier to cope with an accompanying recession in which many were fired, furloughed, or had work hours cut," write Barany and Stephen Brobeck, a senior fellow at CFA.

With Congress stalled on another stimulus package, people are left to figure out how to meet their expenses without additional government support in an economy still struggling for a comeback.

Having some savings – even a small amount – can help in a crisis. You might not have enough to pay the rent, but you can buy a bag of groceries perhaps. The problem is that only 42 percent of Blacks have a traditional savings account and/or money market deposit account.

"It's not easy for people with lower incomes to save, but the current crisis demonstrates how important it is to make it a top priority," Brobeck said.

America Saves has partnered with the Association for Financial Counseling and Planning Education (AFCPE), utilizing the Yellow Ribbon Network. This online platform normally serves veterans, active military and their families, but it has expanded to connect anyone impacted by the pandemic with certified financial counselors and coaches for free. To sign up for a virtual session, go to yellowribbonnetwork.org/afcpeCOVID19

The best way to save is to do it automatically. Set up direct deposits to a savings account when you get paid. Keep your savings away from your regular household account. I don't carry the debit card connected to my emergency fund in my wallet.

"We encourage people, even if it's $5 per paycheck or $10 per paycheck, to set up an automatic system, because it's the system that's key," Barany said.

Maybe you truly don't have the ability to save now, and there's no shame in that. But for those who can, do it. The pandemic is a harsh reminder for all Americans – but especially Black households – that having an emergency fund is critical in a financial crisis.

Readers can write to Michelle Singletary c/o The Washington Post, 1301 K St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20071. Her email address is michelle.singletary@washpost.com. Follow her on Twitter (@SingletaryM) or Facebook (facebook.com/MichelleSingletary). Comments and questions are welcome, but due to the volume of mail, personal responses may not be possible.

Ask the Fool

Naked and Covered Calls

Q Can you explain what "naked call" options are? *— S.R., Mountain View, North Carolina*

A Sure. There are two main kinds of options: calls and puts. Buying a call gives you the right to buy a certain number of shares at a particular "strike" price within a set period of time (often just a few months). Buying a put gives you the right to sell shares.

When you sell (or "write") a call, you're committing to deliver a set number of shares if the buyer exercises the call. If you don't own the underlying stock, that's a "naked call." It's risky because if the stock soars, you may have to buy it at the new high price, to deliver it to whoever bought the call you sold. You might lose a lot. Of course, if the stock stays below the strike price until the option expires, you pocket the price of the option. That's the appeal of this strategy.

"Covered calls" are safer, where you sell a call only if you own the underlying stock — and are willing to hand it over, if necessary. You won't lose any cash this way, but if you have to relinquish your shares, you'll miss out on profits you might have made if you'd kept the stock.

Many options strategies are risky. You can build wealth in stocks without ever using options.

***

Q Why does the stock market's value rise or fall every day? *— V.N., Tulsa, Oklahoma*

A The stock market is made up of thousands of companies' stocks, and each rises or falls according to what investors think of it, based on the latest news or developments. Promising news usually sends a stock's price up, and vice versa.

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Stocks for Your Retirement

We often assume that as we approach retirement, we should sell many or all of our stocks and stick mostly with less volatile investments, such as bonds, certificates of deposit (CDs), money market accounts and cash.

That might be a mistake, though. It can be smart to keep a meaningful portion of your portfolio in stocks even when you're retired. After all, if you retire at age 62 and you live to age 92, those are 30 years in which your nest egg could keep growing, and stocks offer better growth rates than bonds over most long periods.

You can aim for growth with the portion of your portfolio that you keep in stocks, while relying on the portion in safer investments to preserve your assets. For context, know that the stock market has averaged close to 10% annual growth over many decades — though with great variability from year to year, and no guarantees.

One old rule of thumb is to take the number 100, subtract your age, and invest the remaining portion in stocks. So if you're 60, you'd park 40% of your portfolio in stocks, and 60% in bonds. With people living longer these days, some use a newer rule of thumb, subtracting their age from 110. That would put a 60-year-old 50% in stocks and 50% in bonds.

Another common rule simply suggests a 60-40 mix at any age, with 60% in stocks and 40% in bonds. But with interest rates having been very low for many years now, that hasn't served many retirees well.

It's best not to use any one-size-fits-all strategy for your portfolio, as everyone has different savings, incomes, risk tolerances, ages and expected longevity, among other factors. Take some time to try to determine your best allocation mix — one that will allow you to sleep well at night while still generating the income and portfolio growth required for the rest of your life. Don't be afraid to consult a financial planner, either; you can find some fee-only ones at **NAPFA.org**.

My Dumbest Investment

Black Monday Blues

My dumbest investment was selling my shares of Microsoft on Black Monday in 1987. *— S.F., online*

The Fool Responds: Ouch — this is an extra-painful story to hear, because Microsoft had just had its debut on the stock market — its initial public offering (IPO) — the year before. Had you bought 100 shares at the IPO and never sold, you'd be sitting on quite a bundle.

The stock started trading on March 13, 1986, at $25.50 per share, so 100 shares would have cost you $2,550, plus whatever commission your brokerage charged you. Microsoft has split its stock nine times since then, so those 100 original shares would have become 28,800 shares through splits. With the stock recently trading for about $215 per share, your 28,800 shares would be worth almost $6.5 million!

Of course, we're looking back now knowing what a success Microsoft has been. Back in 1987, it was still a fairly small company, and its future unclear.

"Black Monday" occurred on October 19, 1987, when the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged by 508 points, which represented a 22.6% drop at the time. The market crash took most stocks down with it, to varying degrees, and Microsoft was no exception. Savvy and/or experienced investors at the time would have hung on to their shares — and bought more, if they could. Market crashes present great long-term buying opportunities.

The Motley Fool Take

Banking Toward Profits

It's not a popular time to be buying bank stocks, with a pandemic going on. But it's also a perfect time to do so because prices are low. Shares of Bank of America (NYSE: BAC) were recently down 19% from their 52-week high, as low interest rates and a poor economic outlook are keeping investors away. So Bank of America has recently been trading at a forward-looking price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio of just 11 — below its book value. Investors who buy at such a level can get a lot of bang for their buck. Plus, while waiting for the stock to recover, they can collect a growing dividend that recently yielded 2.5%.

Aside from pandemic-related issues, Bank of America has been doing very well in recent years. It has emerged as a leader in mobile and online banking functionality, and that has helped improve its profitability.

Once COVID case numbers start falling, which should happen once vaccines are widely distributed, some bullishness will return to the economy; interest rates are likely to rise and unemployment rates to fall. All these factors could benefit financial stocks.

Bank of America is a solid and well-run institution that has dramatically improved its asset quality and business efficiency over the past decade. Its stock price could be higher or lower in a year, but over the long run, it should reward investors well.

Name That Company

I trace my roots back to Baltimore in 1889, when a 25-year-old fellow named Willoughby launched me in a basement and began selling spices and extracts door to door. Over the years, I've offered cream of tartar and food colorings; "blood purifier," castor oil, cold cream, liver pills, talcum powder, tooth powder and witch hazel; and ammonia, birdseed, flypaper and roach traps. Today, with a market value recently near $25 billion, I boast brands such as French's, Frank's RedHot, Stubb's, Old Bay, Lawry's, Zatarain's, Kohinoor, Club House, Aeroplane and my own name. Who am I?

Think you know the answer? We'll announce it in next week's edition.

LAST WEEK'S TRIVIA ANSWER

I trace my roots back to 1937, when three men and two women founded me in Baltimore, aiming to invest money strategically and serve their clients with integrity. Today, I'm a major financial-services company, with $1.3 trillion recently under management. The bighorn sheep is my mascot. With more than 7,000 people – including over 700 investment professionals – serving clients and shareholders in 51 countries, I offer everything from mutual funds to college savings and retirement accounts. From August 2010 to August 2020, my stock roughly tripled. I've made multiple lists of best places to work and most admired companies. Who am I? (Answer: T. Rowe Price)

Want to Invest? Email us at foolnews@fool.com, and we'll send you some tips to start investing. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

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Putting financial survivor's guilt to good use

Liz Weston

Financial therapist Lindsay Bryan-Podvin of Ann Arbor, Michigan, specializes in helping people deal with their anxieties about money.

But since the pandemic started, Bryan-Podvin has been hearing more about guilt than fear.

Several people who still have jobs and financial security felt guilty about having been spared while others suffered, says Bryan-Podvin, author of "The Financial Anxiety Solution."

"I would start to hear things like, 'I shouldn't be complaining – my partner has it so much worse,' or 'I can't even believe I'm telling you this because so-and-so in my neighborhood lost their job,'" she says.

The feelings clients expressed and the language they used were almost identical to what Bryan-Podvin hears from people with post-traumatic stress disorder, a mental health disorder that can be triggered by experiencing or witnessing a terrifying event.

"What I started to see was survivor guilt," Bryan-Podvin says. "They feel like they somehow didn't deserve what they have."

Guilt can turn inward

Survivor's guilt is a symptom of PTSD, often felt by people who wonder why they lived while others died. While financial survivor's guilt isn't an official psychological diagnosis, Bryan-Podvin says that recognizing the similarities has helped her treat clients who are struggling.

People experiencing this kind of guilt may feel sad or even hopeless, she says. They may have obsessive thoughts, wondering why they were spared or what they might have done differently to protect others. They may feel paralyzed, numb or burned out.

"Survivor guilt is like any other type of stress," she says. "It can impact your sleep, it can impact your parasympathetic nervous system, it can impact your ability to fully rest in the present."

Recognizing what you're experiencing can help you cope, says certified financial planner Edward Coambs, a marriage and family therapist in Charlotte, North Carolina. One reason people feel survivor's guilt is because we're hard-wired to want justice and fairness, he says.

"That's really what's getting activated," Coambs says. "Like, how is it fair that I still have my job but this segment of the market no longer has their job?"

Not everyone feels bad about inequities, of course. But those who do can experience financial self-shaming, where they feel that it isn't OK to have money, jobs or opportunities that are denied to others, Coambs says. At the extreme, they may give away too much, volunteer to be furloughed or otherwise put themselves at financial risk because they feel guilty.

"It's not your fault what's happened to this other person," he says. "Sometimes survivor guilt can be about taking on more responsibility than is appropriate."

Cope in ways that help others

A more productive approach is to look for sensible ways to help others, therapists say. That may be working at a food bank, donating to a cause, helping someone update their resume or making introductions that could help them find a job.

"Some level of service, some level of giving back tends to help us feel better," Bryan-Podvin says. "It's about knowing that you're taking steps and you're taking action to help."

But be careful about going overboard. Some people may rush in with referrals and networking suggestions when a jobless friend is still in shock, for example. Maybe your friend just needs an empathetic listener right now.

When your goal is to alleviate your guilt, it's easy to miss what the other person actually needs, Coambs says.

Also, resist the urge to share the setbacks you've experienced, Bryan-Podvin says."It's better to say, 'I'm so sorry that happened. That must be really hard,'" she says.

Make room for gratitude

Another way to cope with financial survivor's guilt is to start noticing and appreciating the positives in your life.

"Turn the 'g' in guilt to gratitude," says financial therapist and CFP Preston D. Cherry of Lubbock, Texas. Research shows that writing gratitude lists, keeping a gratitude journal or just contemplating what you're grateful for can lower stress, improve sleep and make relationships better.

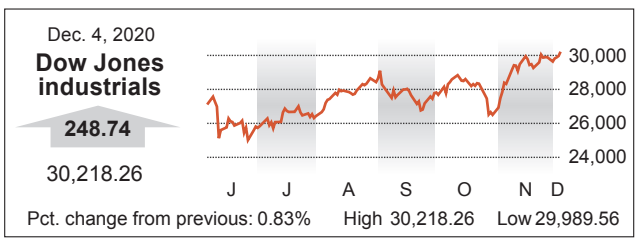
Feeling bummed out about layoffs and economic turmoil is normal, but experiencing sadness and guilt for weeks at a time is not, Bryan-Podvin says.

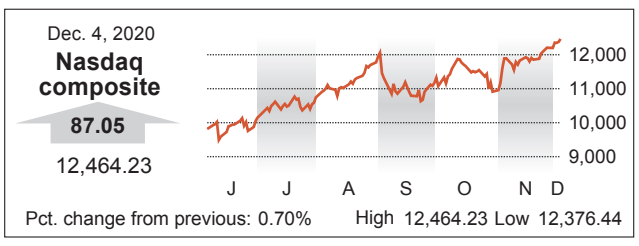
If you can't sleep, you're too distracted to work or you keep forgetting important things, like what time your kids need to be in online classes, consider getting professional help. The Financial Therapy Association is one place to look for referrals. (Cherry and Coambs are board members.)

"If your ability to function is so impacted, whether it's financial survival guilt or just the trauma of being alive right now, therapy is not a bad idea," she says.

Liz Weston is a columnist at NerdWallet, a certified financial planner and author of "Your Credit Score." Email: lweston@nerdwallet.com. Twitter: @lizweston.

MARKETS





Amer Elec Power AEP
$83.39 **-1.35 -1.6%**
▼ **4-wk.** -7.5% ▼ **YTD** -11.8%

Whirlpool WHR
$184.07 **-2.82 -1.5%**
▼ **4-wk.** -8.7% ▲ **YTD** +24.8%

LocalStocks

NAME	TICKER	52-WK RANGE LO	HI	◇CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	WK	MO	QTR
AT&T Inc	T	26.08	39.55	29.54	+.31	+1.1	▲	▲	▲
AEP	AEP	65.14	104.97	83.39	-1.35	-1.6	▼	▼	▲
Apple Inc s	AAPL	53.15	137.98	122.25	-.69	-0.6	▲	▲	▲
AutoZone	AZO	684.91	1274.41	1162.63	+8.62	+0.7	▲	▲	▼
BP PLC	BP	14.74	40.08	22.27	+.91	+4.3	▲	▲	▲
CMS Eng	CMS	46.03	69.12	59.77	-1.18	-1.9	▼	▼	▼
CocaCola	KO	36.27	60.07	53.85	+1.07	+2.0	▲	▲	▲
Comcast	CMCSA	31.71	52.49	51.69	+.10	+0.2	▼	▲	▲
Deere	DE	106.14	265.87	253.39	+.71	+0.3	▼	▲	▲
Disney	DIS	79.07	154.44	154.14	+.90	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
DollarTree	DLTR	60.20	114.32	112.51	+.39	+0.3	▲	▲	▲
ExxonMbl	XOM	30.11	71.37	41.68	+1.47	+3.7	▲	▲	▲
FifthThird	FITB	11.10	31.64	27.40	+.57	+2.1	▲	▲	▲
1stSource	SRCE	26.07	53.42	40.06	+1.32	+3.4	▲	▲	▲
FordM	F	3.96	9.58	9.34	+.13	+1.4	▲	▲	▲
GenElec	GE	5.48	13.26	10.88	+.28	+2.6	▲	▲	▲
HomeDp	HD	140.63	292.95	263.99	-4.15	-1.5	▼	▼	▼
HorizBcp	HBNC	7.42	19.48	15.18	+.48	+3.3	▲	▲	▲
HuntBncsh	HBAN	6.82	15.63	13.11	+.13	+1.0	▲	▲	▲
IDEX	IEX	104.56	199.50	192.78	+2.52	+1.3	▲	▲	▲
IBM	IBM	90.56	158.75	127.20	+3.59	+2.9	▲	▲	▲
JPMorgCh	JPM	76.91	141.10	122.34	+1.10	+0.9	▲	▲	▲
JohnJn	JNJ	109.16	157.00	150.27	+1.27	+0.9	▲	▲	▲
Lowes	LOW	60.00	180.67	150.00	-1.97	-1.3	▼	▼	▼
McDnlds	MCD	124.23	231.91	210.74	-.77	-0.4	▼	▼	▼
Microsoft	MSFT	132.52	232.86	214.36	+.12	+0.1	▼	▼	▲
MillerHer	MLHR	14.39	49.88	38.68	+.94	+2.5	▲	▲	▲
Perrigo	PRGO	40.01	63.86	49.87	+1.54	+3.2	▲	▲	▲
Pfizer	PFE	27.88	41.99	40.34	+.25	+0.6	▲	▲	▲
ProctGam	PG	94.34	146.92	137.47	+.13	+0.1	▼	▼	▼
RepubSvc	RSG	65.37	103.79	95.67	+.92	+1.0	▼	▼	▲
Steelcse	SCS	7.02	23.02	13.34	+.73	+5.8	▲	▲	▲
Stryker	SYK	124.54	242.51	239.59	+4.81	+2.0	▲	▲	▲
TCF Finl	TCF	16.96	47.46	36.03	+.99	+2.8	▲	▲	▲
Target	TGT	90.17	181.17	175.03	+.11	+0.1	▼	▲	▲
TractSupp	TSCO	63.89	157.07	134.38	-.42	-0.3	▼	▼	▼
UPS B	UPS	82.00	178.01	167.25	-.58	-0.3	▼	▼	▲
VerizonCm	VZ	48.84	62.22	61.55	-.19	-0.3	▲	▲	▲
WEC Engy	WEC	68.01	109.53	93.29	-1.09	-1.2	▼	▼	▼
WalMart	WMT	102.00	153.66	148.91	-.39	-0.3	▼	▲	▲
WalgBoots	WBA	33.36	59.92	43.41	+.59	+1.4	▲	▲	▲
Wendys Co	WEN	6.82	24.91	22.19	+.38	+1.7	▲	▼	▼
Whrlpl	WHR	64.00	207.30	184.07	-2.82	-1.5	▼	▼	▲
Worthgtn	WOR	19.28	56.43	53.30	+1.19	+2.3	▼	▲	▲
XPO Logis	XPO	38.47	119.71	119.91	+3.51	+3.0	▲	▲	▲

PRODUCE PRICES

The following fruit prices were recorded on the Chicago Terminal Market on Wednesday. Prices are not net to the growers as freight and selling fees have not been deducted. These prices were provided by the USDA Market News Branch office in Chicago.

APPLES: Cartons tray pack of Washington Extra Fancy 72s Red Delicious sold steady from mostly $26.50-28, Golden Delicious sold from $26-28, Fuji brought $32-34, Pink Lady sold for $35, Gala sold for $34 while fine appearance offerings sold for $39-40, and 72 size Honeycrisp sold for $58. Cartons of 12 3-pound film bags of Washington WA Extra Fancy 2 1/2-inch minimum Red Delicious sold for $23-24, while Golden Delicious sold for $26-27,Fuji sold for $22 and Gala brought $25-26, while bushel cartons of 3-inch up Michigan Gala, Golden Delicious and Jonagold sold for $20.

ASPARAGUS: 11-pound cartons/crates bunched from Peru standard size sold Peru from $14-16, while white large offerings sold lower for mostly $25.50-27.50.

BEANS: Bushel cartons/crates of round green type hand-picked offerings from Florida sold for $40.

BERRIES: Flats of 12 1-pint cups with lids of medium-large size from Peru sold slightly lower from $18-20, with fine appearance offerings from Mexico sold higher for $30-32. No organic offerings. Strawberries in flats of 12 1-pound containers medium-large size from Mexico sold much lower for $16-18, with fine appearance offerings mostly $25-26. No organic offerings.

BROCCOLI: Cartons of 14 bunches from California sold steady for $32, with no organic offerings available.

CABBAGE: 50-pound cartons of round green medium from Georgia sold for mostly $17-19, with medium red offerings from Quebec sold lower for $20.

CAULIFLOWER: Cartons of 12 film wrapped heads from California sold much lower from mostly $33-35, with organic offerings steady from $44.50-46.

CORN: Wirebound crates of four dozen Florida bi-color sold for $15, with no yellow offerings available.

CRANBERRIES: Cartons of 24 12-ounce packages of offerings from Wisconsin sold from mostly $31-32.

CUCUMBERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons from Mexico of medium size sold lower for $26, while select offerings brought mostly $21-22 and large sold lower for mostly for $20-22, while carton 24s sold for mostly $12-13. Pickles of 200-300 size from Texas sold for $37.

EGGPLANT: 1 1/9-bushel cartons of medium size from Florida sold for mostly $14.50-15.

LETTUCE: Cartons film wrapped 24 heads of iceberg lettuce from California sold much lower for $24-25, with 12 count organic offerings $24.50.

ORANGES: Cartons of 10 4-pound film bags of California 72 size valencia juice oranges sold for mostly $28-29.

PEPPERS: 1-1/9-bushel cartons of Georgia green jumbo sold for $22.50, with extra-large $12 and large sold for $14-15, while choppers from Florida $16-18. Large size anaheim peppers from Florida sold for $26, with extra-large serranos $29, medium-large cubanelles sold lower for $22-24, hungarian wax peppers sold lower for $20, extra-large serranos sold for $29, long hots brought $30 and poblanos $30 with large size jalapenos from Mexico sold for $23-24.

SQUASH: 4/7-bushel cartons of small-medium zucchini from Mexico sold lower for mostly $11.50-13, with medium mostly $13-14, while yellow straightneck small-medium sold lower for $20, with mediums $17.50. 40-pound cartons of large size butternut from Michigan sold for $20, Mexico offerings of acorn and spaghetti brought $20.

TOMATOES: 25-pound cartons loose vine-ripe offerings from Florida of 5x6 size sold lower for mostly $17-19, and mature green offerings sold for $24, while cartons 2-layer offerings of vine ripes from Mexico of 4x5 size sold lower for $25. Cartons of 12 1-pint baskets of cherry type light red-red medium size from Mexico sold for $12-14, while cartons of 12 10.5-ounce containers with lids of grape type sold from mostly $11-12. Plum tomatoes packed in 25-pound cartons loose of extra-large size from Mexico sold lower from mostly $15-17.

WAYLAND LIVESTOCK

As of Tuesday, Dec. 1 Prices are per pound.
High yielding choice & prime .97 cents – $1.02 cents
Choice steers & heifers .94 cents – $1.01 cents
Utility cows .48 cents – .62 cents
Canner & cutter cows .38 cents – .50 cents
Bulls .60 cents – .80 cents
Top bull calve .60 cents – $1.20 cents
Hay $3.90 – $7.00 per bale
Straw $3.50 – $4.60
For information, call 792-2296 or fax 792-8055.

Press release basics for small business owners

Press releases remain among the most effective ways to generate awareness of your small business and its products and services.

Media outlets may reproduce a press release as is (or with some editing), or follow up about creating a longer story. A press release that gets picked up by reporters, bloggers, and others who share information with potential customers can result in media attention that facilitates interest in your company, builds credibility and ultimately leads to more revenue.

Keep in mind, however, that the people at media outlets who field press releases are bombarded with them. That means yours needs to have purpose and must stand out from the crowd. Otherwise, it may never be read let alone published.

Here are some tips to help ensure your press releases make an impression and make it past media gatekeepers:

Share something people will care about

While a press release can be about anything relevant to the people you want to reach, make sure you're sharing something that's interesting. Never create a press release that doesn't offer something of value to your readers.

Examples of press release topics that might resonate with people include:

Launch of a new product that will make customers' lives easier

Improvement to an existing product that enhances its quality or capabilities

An open house event

Introduction of a new staff member who brings additional expertise to your company

Involvement in an industry association or sponsorship of a well-known program

Keep it to the point

Press releases are typically short, providing just enough information to spark a reporter's interest in learning more. If your press release extends past two pages, it will likely get passed over. Stick to the basic "who, what, when, where, how, and why" information, and include your contact information so reporters can easily reach you if they have questions.

Put it in the right hands

Research what media outlets reach your target audience. Depending on your type of business, that may be local newspapers, local magazines, and local television and radio stations, or you might benefit from a much broader reach. With local media, find out how they prefer to receive press releases.

For media reach beyond your local area, you might consider PRlog.com or pay services such as PRweb.com, PRnewswire.com, or Marketwired.com.

Also take advantage of the power of social media by posting your press release on your website and sharing the link on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and the other platforms you have a presence on.

If you need guidance in what to include in your press releases and which media outlets will serve you best, or if have any other questions about ways to generate buzz about your small business, talk with a SCORE mentor at your local chapter.

SCORE™

This column is provided by SCORE, an organization dedicated to helping small businesses start, grow and succeed. The local SCORE chapter provide free and confidential mentoring in management, accounting, marketing and business plan preparation.

DeVos suspends student federal loan payments through January

By COLLIN BINKLEY
Associated Press

The Trump administration on Friday suspended all federal student loan payments through the end of January and kept interest rates at 0 percent, extending a moratorium that started early in the pandemic but was set to expire at the end of this month.

By extending payments by one month, the administration is effectively leaving it to the Biden administration or Congress to decide whether to provide longer-term relief to millions of student borrowers. The measure was included in a March relief package and the White House extended it in August, but its fate was in doubt amid stalemate over a new relief bill.

In announcing the extension, Education Secretary Betsy DeVos rebuked Congress for failing to act. "The added time also allows Congress to do its job and determine what measures it believes are necessary and appropriate," DeVos said in a statement. "The Congress, not the Executive Branch, is in charge of student loan policy."

Under the measure, students will not be required to make payments, their loans will not accrue interest and all collection activity will halt until the end of January.

DeVos won praise for using her authority to pause federal student loan payments in March. Congress later cemented the measure in legislation and Trump extended it through December, but the looming deadline stoked fears that millions of borrowers would be forced to resume payments even as unemployment rates soared.

Last month, the American Council on Education and dozens of other higher education associations urged DeVos to extend the relief, saying the recent surge in COVID-19 cases would likely lead to even more economic turmoil.

"Bringing millions of Americans back into repayment in the thick of this crisis will cause additional financial hardship and force borrowers to make difficult decisions about their limited resources," the groups wrote in a letter to DeVos.

Even DeVos' own agency warned of looming trouble if the moratorium lapsed. In its annual report last month, Federal Student Aid, the office that oversees student loans, said that without an extension it would face a "heavy burden" in moving millions of borrowers to active repayment at the same time.

President-elect Joe Biden has not directly addressed the moratorium but on Tuesday called for immediate relief including "relief from rent and student loans." He has also supported proposals to erase up to $10,000 in student debt for all borrowers as part of a future virus relief package.

In Friday's announcement, DeVos said her agency is working to notify the loan servicing companies that the Education Department contracts with to manage collections. A federal lawsuit filed against DeVos in April alleged that thousands of overdue borrowers were still getting pay withheld despite the mortarium. The department blamed the error on its servicers.

DeVos' Friday release says that any defaulted borrowers who continue to have wages withheld will receive refunds.

NEW IN BUSINESS

Baroda winery adds igloos, greenhouses

BARODA — Dablon Vineyards is transforming its outdoor patio in anticipation of winter weather.

Dablon's Patio is now equipped with five igloos, three greenhouses, and an outdoor wine bar – all of which are heated. Dablon offers 1.5 hour reservations for igloos and greenhouses throughout each day.

Guests are encouraged to reserve their igloo or greenhouse to guarantee a space. The cost of the reservation will be applied to the guest's wine purchase.

To ensure the safety of customers, each space is cleaned, sanitized and opened for airflow for half an hour between uses.

To make a reservation, visit www.dablon.com.

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hp OUTDOORS

Submitting hunting or fishing photos

Have a behemoth buck, a tremendous turkey or super-sized salmon? Please submit photos to sports@TheHP.com.

Your photo must be in focus, all persons in the photo must be identified, and the general location of the hunt must be provided (for example, 10-point buck shot in Benton Township, black bear shot near Munising, Mich., etc.)

Sandhill cranes gather in large numbers

Sandhill cranes have once again gathered at their pre-staging area, before moving south for the winter, along Oak Grove Road, between Kingsbury Road and Beeson Street in Cass County. This is approximately three to four miles southeast of Dowagiac.

Brad Anderson went out to this location on Nov. 20. He reported about 600 cranes present, and supplied me with a few photos of the birds. I also have been out to the location over the last several weeks and have seen several hundred cranes gathered across the harvested corn fields, although they appeared to be more spread out than in most years. Perhaps they are social distancing?

Jonathan Wuepper
Southwest Michigan Wildlife

Crane numbers typically peak here between late October and mid-November, with numbers upwards of 2,000 birds. Michigan counties which typically harbor higher sandhill crane counts during the same period of October to mid-November include Kalamazoo, Calhoun, Jackson, and Shiawassee.

Sandhill cranes linger into December and sometimes January in our region, depending on the severity of the weather. They move south to Florida and other scattered locations around the southeastern U.S. for the duration of the winter.

Prior to the 2000s, observing sandhill cranes in Michigan during December or January was unheard of. I recall standing at the edge of Lake LaGrange in Cass County with Walter Booth on a snowy day in early December 2000 and watching a flock of about 15-20 sandhill cranes forage for food in the marsh. Booth was very surprised at the sight, a memory I'll never forget.

Brad Anderson also sent me a photo of a common redpoll at his home feeder in Bridgman, taken on the last day of November. This little finch is the size of our common American goldfinch, and sports a red patch on the top of the head along with a black chin. Males have a pinkish chest, females have brown on their chest.

In the summer, common redpolls inhabit the cold tundra areas where birches, alder trees and shrubs grow. In winter, they move as far south as they need to, with food supply being the determining factor.

Some winters the species irrupts southward into the northern tier or two of states including Michigan, and scores may be seen at bird feeding stations at once. Some winters few redpolls may be seen, and still other winters the redpoll will be entirely absent.

Thus far, the fall and winter of 2020-2021 looks to be a modest year for the common redpoll showing up in the Great Lakes states. They prefer niger seed, also known as "thistle" seed.

Photo provided / Brad Anderson

Sandhill cranes on Nov. 20 along Oak Grove Road southeast of Dowagiac. This is a reliable area to see large flocks of these birds before they head south for the winter months.

Photo provided / Brad Anderson

A cmmon redpoll on Nov. 30 at the home feeder of Brad and Hannah Anderson of Bridgman.

Mike Mahler of Sarett Nature Center located two black-legged kittiwakes at the end of the north pier in St. Joseph on Nov. 25. The black-legged kittiwake is a small species of gull that is not often observed from shore. It spends the summer months in the arctic and subarctic waters off Alaska, Canada and Greenland, and migrates south off the coasts to the waters off the southern U.S. where it winters.

Each year a few kittiwakes end up in the Great Lakes, via the St. Lawrence River, although they are hard to locate because they don't show up close to shore except on cold, windy days. The two black-legged kittiwakes found by Mahler were located on Nov. 25 and stayed at least until Nov. 28, and were observed by over 15 birders. Several photos were taken, including one outstanding photo by Levi Sheridan of Chicago.

Jonathan Wuepper is an area naturalist. Report your sightings to him at wuepperj@gmail.com.

Photo provided / Levi Sheridan

A black-legged kittiwake, rarely seen from shore in the Great Lakes. This is one of two located by Mike Mahler of Sarett Nature Center, at the end of St. Joseph's north pier last month.

Sarett Nature Center

Annual Audubon Christmas bird count: 8 a.m. Dec. 31. Volunteers are needed to count birds for this event. Call 927-4832 to register. Areas will be divided up so small groups can cover an area in a reasonable amount of time.

Watervliet Rod & Gun Club

CPL classes: The Watervliet Rod and Gun Club is offering concealed pistol license classes.

February: Register from 6-7 p.m. Feb. 2. Classes are from 6-10 p.m. Feb. 4 and from 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Feb. 6. For more information, call 470-9191 or 468-3837.

FISHING REPORT

Southwest Lower Peninsula

Steelhead continue to trickle into the St. Joseph, Kalamazoo, Grand and Muskegon rivers. Try running plugs behind a boat or simply drifting spawn along the bottom through the deep runs and riffles.

St. Joseph River: Those fishing near the Berrien Springs Dam continue to catch the occasional steelhead. Fish movement through the ladder slowed with the colder temperatures this week. Water levels continue to be very low and clear. A couple walleye were caught by shore anglers.

Grand Haven: When the weather allows, both pier and shore anglers are catching steelhead on spawn. The whitefish action has slowed in the channel, with only a few taken by those jigging small spoons that glow.

Grand River near Grand Rapids: Continues to see a light number of steelhead moving into the area. Shore anglers are using spawn up near the dam. Walleye anglers are fishing off the wall.

Muskegon: Pier anglers are catching steelhead on spawn. Whitefish action is slowing down in the channel, with only a few caught on small jigging spoons.

Muskegon Lake: Perch are being caught, and some walleye were taken in the channel.

Muskegon River: Water levels have dropped, and those targeting steelhead are taking a fair number of fish below Croton Dam.

White Lake: A few walleye were caught in the channel.

White River: Anglers have caught steelhead in Hesperia.

– Michigan DNR, Dec. 2

Saying goodbye: Wings of Wonder owner Lessard retires

By PATTI BRANDT BURGESS
Traverse City Record-Eagle

EMPIRE, Mich. — Rebecca Lessard released her last rehabilitated eagle on South Fox Island about a month ago, piling into a small chartered plane with the caged raptor and her assistant.

The eagle had come from the island and when it was released, soared down the runway before being joined by another eagle and taking off.

"It was a fun way to end," Lessard told the Traverse City Record-Eagle. "It was a fun adventure and then my helper and I went out for ice cream."

It has been 31 years since Lessard founded the Wings of Wonder raptor sanctuary at her home in Empire. Lessard retired this month after finding homes for her beloved birds and committing to helping another sanctuary get off the ground in Harbor Springs.

The new Tribal Eagle Aviary is a project of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. Lessard, who has wanted to see an aviary established for about 15 years, will work with the tribe this year and next to help with its design and with training.

Jan-Michael Stump / Traverse City Record-Eagle via AP

Rebecca Lessard of Wings of Wonder releases the first of two immature bald eagles on Dec 1, 2018, at the Homestead Township Hall in Honor, Mich.

Tribal aviaries allow tribes to shelter eagles that have been rescued from the wild because of injury or illness, are rehabilitated and cannot be returned to the wild. Eagle feathers lost through molting are used by Native Americans for religious and ceremonial use, and the eagles receive care for the rest of their lives.

There are seven tribal aviaries in the United States and all are located in the southwest or the Pacific northwest. The Traverse Bay Band's aviary will be the first one east of the Mississippi River, Lessard said.

"It's putting a place on the map here," Lessard said, and may be used as a model for more aviaries in the Midwest region.

Now that she has more free time, Lessard will begin work on a book project, a memoir of her life as a raptor rehabilitator. She is also working on raptor educational kits that will go to public libraries, where children can check them out and learn about the magnificent birds.

She'll also spend time hiking, horseback riding, and looking at her calendar, where for the first time in many years there are four days in a row with nothing on it.

Lessard became a local celebrity through her work at WOW and people would gather to watch when an eagle or other bird was released. Some were not able to return to their natural homes and became her ambassadors, visiting schools and other organizations with her, many becoming celebrities themselves.

Homes have been found for the ambassadors, including Doolin, a turkey vulture who is now at the Michigan Avian Experience, a raptor educational center in Brooklyn.

Doolin, who was at WOW for 15 years, was named after a town in Ireland that Lessard visited with her late husband Don. The playful-bordering-on-naughty vulture was with her for 15 years and has his own cult following, Lessard said.

"We had a really great relationship," she said. "He's got a really good home now, so my heart is appeased."

Lessard was also called on at all hours of the day and night when an injured bird was found and needed rescuing. She is still getting calls, but no longer has any supplies to care for the birds or the fly pens used in rehabilitation. All callers are now referred to the Department of Natural Resources.

Working with raptors for so many years has taught her many things, including that each bird has its own individual personality, she said.

"It became my personal challenge to get to know each bird and find out what its gift for me is. Every bird gave me a gift."

Raptors speak through a body language of micro-movements.

"They might move their tail a tiny bit, which means they're going to launch off a perch," she said. "I had to learn to listen to the bird and not get in the way, allow it to heal."

Lessard says she is a better person for having worked with raptors.

"The birds over the years have really instilled a calmness in my life," she said. "They observe their environment from a very still posture ... They evaluate and assess their environment before jumping in."

Humans don't, she said, often to disastrous effect.

"We just have to learn to be still," she said.

hp FOCUS

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My secret ingredient

Sometimes, you have to lie to your kids.

Is the Easter Bunny real, dad? Well, who else would've left all these jelly beans here?

Did I hurt you, daddy? No *cough, cough* of course not, you can't hurt daddy.

Are you taking my picture? Why would I be taking your picture? Just keep doing that cute thing you're doing while I hold my phone here.

Andy Steinke

But my favorite is the secret ingredient.

As you know, I'm a bit of a chef. Or I could be. I'm pretty sure. I like to tell my wife I'm a really good cook, I just feign stupid and burn the occasional grilled cheese sandwich so she doesn't make me cook more often.

The kids aren't convinced, though. They'll let out a groan when they hear dad is making dinner and it's not pizza or macaroni and cheese (both gourmet meals, if you ask me).

Enter the secret ingredient. If you can convince them the dish will be different because dad used a "secret ingredient," they're more excited about giving it a try.

They don't yet have my refined palate (no one does, if you ask my wife), but they enjoy trying to guess what I've added.

One of their favorite dishes now is Dad's Super Secret Spaghetti and Meatballs (spoiler alert: it's just a whole bag of meatballs instead of half a bag, spaghetti noodles and a jar of Pumpkin & Butternut Squash Pasta Sauce from Aldi instead of spaghetti sauce).

Sometimes, my secret ingredient is something so small it's almost imperceptible. Sometimes, it's imperceptible because I didn't add anything at all.

It's all about how you sell it. If you say real low, "I bet you can't guess my secret ingredient," they'll try to find it, whether it's there or not.

My wife isn't always excited about my secret ingredients (you use salt instead of sugar one time ...).

We have different tastes. For example, she likes Taco Bell. I prefer actual food.

I like lots of citrus flavor, and meat with jelly. She thinks it's time to find a new husband.

See, it all balances out.

Last week, she had to run out and pick up some food for Thanksgiving, but before she left, she said, "You could make the pumpkin pies."

She was joking. Probably.

So there I am making the pumpkin pies when she calls to say she's coming home.

"Is it supposed to be this liquidy?" I asked.

"You aren't actually making the pies, are you!?" she said.

"You told me to make the pies. Don't worry, I only added one secret ingredient."

The kids get excited about my secret ingredients. She just gets worried. I'm not sure why.

Don't worry, the pies turned out just fine. And no one even noticed I added a secret ingredient.

Or did I?

Andy Steinke is features editor at The Herald-Palladium. Share your secret ingredients with him at asteinke@TheHP.com.

Lynne Sladky / AP photos

Brad Six wears a face mask as he puts on his boots, preparing to work as Santa Claus at Bass Pro Shops in Miami.

Santa in the Coronavirus Age

COVID-19 pandemic keeping most of the jolly old elves at a distance this year

By TERRY SPENCER
Associated Press

Federica Rodriguez, at left, is greeted by Santa Claus from behind a transparent barrier at Bass Pro Shops in Miami.

MIAMI — Brad Six becomes Santa Claus, pulling his black boots over his red pants in the office of a Miami outdoor supply company. It's hot, so he forgoes the traditional heavy jacket for a lightweight vest and grabs his Santa hat.

But before sliding it on, the gray-bearded 61-year-old dons a plastic face shield and then takes his chair positioned behind a plexiglass wall.

"Getting paid is nice, but to get your battery recharged and to really get something lasting out of it requires interacting with the kids – you don't get a lot of that this year," said Six, who first portrayed Santa 35 years ago.

This is Santa Claus in the Coronavirus Age, where visits are conducted with layers of protection or online. Putting hundreds of kids daily onto Santa's lap to talk into his face – that's not happening for most. The physical attributes that make the perfect Santa align perfectly with those that make COVID-19 especially deadly.

"Most of us tick all the boxes: We are old, we are overweight, we have diabetes and if we don't have diabetes, we have heart disease," said Stephen Arnold, the president of IBRBS, an association formerly known as the International Brotherhood of Real Bearded Santas.

That has spurred creativity in Santa's workshops. Santas conducting in-person visits are using some combination of masks, the outdoors, barriers and distance for safety. Others are doing virtual visits, where children chat with Santa online for prices typically ranging from $20 to $100, depending on the length and extras, such as whether customers want a recording. Some Santas are taking the season off.

"Santa safety is our No. 1 concern" and negotiated into every contract, said Mitch Allen, president of HireSanta, one of the nation's largest agencies. He said the pandemic initially dried up his business, but it bounced back, especially online.

The average Santa makes $5,000 to $10,000 during a normal season, Allen said. That's a welcome bonus for men often retired on a fixed income, but many Santas say revenue is down as corporate parties and other lucrative gigs evaporated.

Jac Grimes, a Santa in Greensboro, N.C., gave up home visits, about a third of his business. He did it not just for his own health, but to prevent becoming a superspreader, fearing he'd pass the virus from one family to the next.

At a farmers market he annually works, Grimes and his wife dress up as Santa and Mrs. Claus and sit in a parking lot where they talk to people who remain inside their cars. Some homeowners associations are moving their annual Santa-visitation parties outdoors. Grimes will arrive in his red convertible to greet the crowds from afar.

One of the hardest adjustments Santas have made is wearing masks that hide their painstakingly grown beards.

"Santa performers are fairly vain people – if they are good," Grimes said.

The virus has many Santas and parents turning to virtual visits, which are booked through each Santa's personal website or agencies like Allen's. That often has Santas turning to their children and others for help mastering the computer skills needed.

"It has been a challenge," said Christopher Saunders, a Santa performer in Tool, Texas, a small town near Dallas.

But Saunders and others say virtual sessions are a good if imperfect substitute for in-person visits. Parents fill out questionnaires, allowing performers to personalize their patter, and a side benefit is that the sessions aren't rushed. Many Santa mall visits last no more than two minutes to keep the line moving.

"You get a different energy," Saunders said of the virtual visits. "You can see the child's expressions, as pure as they are."

Jim Beidel, a Santa performer near Seattle, said knowing the children's personal stories, such as their friends and school, helps Santas sell their Christmas magic.

"It really enhances the engagement, the suspension of disbelief, especially among the older children," he said.

But even Santas with the best gigs are hurting.

Howard Graham usually portrays Santa in the grand foyer of New York's Radio City Music Hall during its Christmas show featuring the Rockettes. That's gone, so he's doing virtual visits and five days with a historic

See **SANTA**, page C2

A few ways to fight isolation during the pandemic

Lynn Kellogg
Generations

The holidays are upon us. It's gratifying to see so many embracing ways to connect with family and friends while also protecting health. What we may not be aware of is how critical connection with others is to our health.

This year, the national Home for the Holidays campaign, launched annually by the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, is a massive educational effort focused on why staying connected during the COVID-19 pandemic goes beyond the niceties of sharing time.

People tend not to want to impose or complain or ask for help. Social isolation is defined as having few or infrequent social contacts. While many enjoy time alone, there's a fine line when it creeps to loneliness. Prolonged loneliness can quickly become a real threat to health.

The National Academy of Sciences reports that isolation can have effects that are felt immediately, like depression or anxiety, while other issues develop over time.

Proven examples include an increased likelihood of dementia (50 percent), heart disease (29 percent) and stroke (32 percent). Chances of early death can increase by as much as 29 percent.

Those are sobering thoughts. So, how do you know if this is a problem, and what can you do about it?

UCLA created an easy, three-item Loneliness Scale. The answers to the questions can be: "hardly ever," "some of the time" or "often."

The questions are: How often do you feel you lack companionship? How often do you feel left out? How often do you feel isolated from others?

If the answer is "some of the time" or "often" to any of these questions, it's time to figure out a way to turn things around for more connection on a regular basis.

There's nothing like picking up the phone and making a call. It actually can be refreshing in today's online world.

Not sure what to talk about? Pick a movie or TV show and plan to talk about it. Maybe share a recipe. Some folks plan a time when they set up a video chat and actually cook and eat together.

I have a daughter-in-law who periodically sends a long, handwritten letter via mail. It's always a treat. Personal notes or cards in amongst bills and catalogs are unexpected and brighten days for sender and receiver.

Getting physical helps. Bundling up and walking outside – alone, with friends or your pooch – works well, until the ice comes. So take advantage now. Or try an online exercise class.

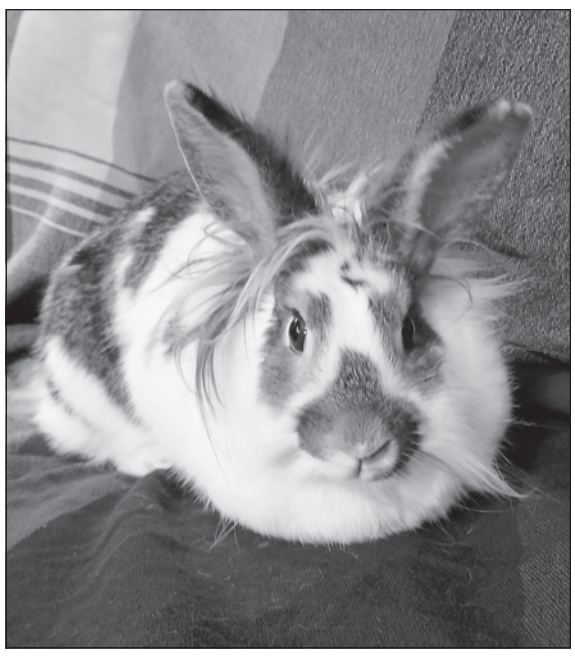
Don't want to stare at a little computer or other device? Check out an HDMI cable. This handy tool plugs into your device and then into your TV – same plug on each end. Hit the "source" button on your TV remote and find the one that links to the cable. Voila – big screen class! Even I can do this one.

Hesitant to explore the online world? Get over it! One of the best tools proven effective for good brain health is trying something new.

The Campus for Creative Aging at www.campusforcreativeaging.org/classes is a great place to start. There's a host of computer related "how-to" classes starting next week sure to boost your confidence.

See **GENERATIONS**, page C2

PET OF THE WEEK



Mopsie is a sweet, adult, mixed-breed rabbit. She would love a forever home for the holidays. Mopsie is one of multiple rabbits available through Save A Stray. To set up an appointment to meet them, call 921-0145.

VOLUNTEERS

An After School Experience

Youth Development Company/PAL is seeking volunteer tutors for its After School Experience. Volunteers should have a passion for working with children in kindergarten through eighth grade.

Those who have an hour to help children with homework, tutor or lend an empathetic ear to someone who maybe had a rough day are encouraged to volunteer.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

United Way of Southwest Michigan

The Herald-Palladium, in conjunction with the United Way of Southwest Michigan, publishes volunteer opportunities every Saturday.

To view all current listings, please visit **volunteer.uwsm.org.**

Help foster families

Foster Closet of Michigan – Berrien County provides free items to foster families and children. The items help rebuild foster children's lives by giving them something to call their own, and it helps relieve some of the financial strain on foster parents.

Volunteers are needed to help open the closet's doors to the public. The closet is open twice a week for two hours.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Blood drive helpers

American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan is looking for blood drive volunteers in Berrien, Cass and Van Buren counties.

Volunteers will provide a warm, friendly greeting to all donors, instruct and help with registration, explain the importance of blood donations, help schedule appointments, screen blood donors for health concerns, and offer refreshments and conversation.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Health screeners

The Berrien County Health Department needs help as it brings back services.

The department has a health screening upon entry, and needs volunteers to help manage the station at the main entrance of its Benton Harbor office.

The station also provides face masks to those who arrive without one.

This is a no-contact position. Volunteers can maintain social distancing from others and personal protective equipment will be provided.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Feeding America

To make sure fresh, healthy food gets distributed quickly, Feeding America West Michigan developed the mobile food pantry.

Mobile pantries deliver fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy products and baked goods to people in need, often on the same day the food is donated.

Volunteers help distribute food, carry heavier groceries for people who need help, and give a smile to those who are experiencing food insecurity.

For upcoming mobile food pantry dates and locations, visit www.feedwm.org.

To volunteer, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Military care

The American Red Cross Hero Care Network provides services to military members, veterans and their families around the world.

The American Red Cross of Southwest Michigan is looking for volunteers to help with tasks such as sending emergency communications for deployed service members, communicating with families of newly enlisted service members, and referring veterans and their families to local programs.

Training will be provided, and volunteers can work remotely.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Health care heroes

PACE of Southwest Michigan is looking for medically trained volunteers to help support their staff and clients as a nurse and nursing assistant.

The nurse will provide care to participants in the PACE Center and in the community.

The nursing assistant will perform participant care activities and other tasks as assigned to assist the primary care, therapy and adult day health staff.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

CASA volunteers

A court-appointed special advocate (CASA) volunteer advocates in the community and courtroom for the best interests of foster children in Berrien County.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, all work is being conducted remotely, including training.

Volunteers must be at least 21 and pass a background check.

For more information, or to sign up, visit volunteer.uwsm.org.

Give. Advocate. Volunteer.

United Way of Southwest Michigan mobilizes the caring power of communities to fight for the health, education and financial stability of every person. Volunteering your time and talent to create lasting solutions that improve life for everyone is an important part in United Way accomplishing this work. Volunteer today and join the fight, by visiting www.uwsm.org.

Guarding the garden of our hearts and minds

Ron Rayon
Insights

A garden is a beautiful thing to behold. Anyone who has raised flowers, fruits, vegetables or spices knows it's not an easy thing to master.

A successful gardener doesn't have a "green thumb" because of the things they plant. They have a green thumb because of the weeds they pull up.

God has a lot to say about gardens in the Bible. He speaks of planting, sowing, reaping and guarding gardens. He told Adam to tend and keep the Garden of Eden.

I think God was saying, "Tend to the garden well, and keep the evil out." Adam got distracted by the Deceiver and his lies and lost his garden. Adam also lost his pure heart – a heart that could commune with God without guilt or shame, a heart that could be fruitful, multiply, fill the Earth, subdue and take dominion.

We are created with a yearning for a pure heart that rules with God in the Earth. King David cries out in Psalms 51:8, "Create in me a clean heart, oh God; and renew a right spirit within me!"

Jesus came that we might have a clean heart and a right spirit through faith in his work on the cross as our substitute sacrifice for our sins. Through his resurrected life, he offers us a rebirth of a pure heart.

1 John 1:9 says it with profound simplicity, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Our times of daily confession before the Lord is the way to keep the garden of our hearts pure before him. We are in a time of great storms of life that seem to come upon us with great fierceness and for long periods of time. Jesus teaches us that the storms of life are inevitable.

He says in Matthew 7: "Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock."

Proverbs 4:23 instructs us that "above all else, guard your heart, for out of it flows the issues of your life."

Everything we experience, how we experience the goodness of God and how we deal with the evil that tries to befall us, depends upon the purity of our hearts. Jesus said blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

We can see God's way of escape in every trial. We can see God's direction in the midst of the world's chaos. We can see God's redemptive purpose as he now globally shakes the heavens and the earth to awaken all nations to seek him and him alone.

We live in contentious and anxious times. A pure and obedient heart builds indestructible lives and nations. Sin in the world and the abounding iniquity of rebellious people brings the judgment of their sins upon them, and affects us who are their neighbors.

The community of the righteous and the community of the wicked are contending for who will rule the communities in which our families live, work and worship. What do we do when troubles come to guard the garden of our hearts?

Philippians 4:7-8 guides us back to Jesus: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

As we contend for righteousness to rule and reign in our lives, in our families and in our communities, let us begin with guarding the garden of our hearts and minds. The pure in heart shall prevail.

Today's Insights was written by the Rev. Ron Rayon, pastor of Grace Christian Center in St. Joseph. Insights is written by area clergy to give different viewpoints on a variety of topics. It is published each Saturday in cooperation with the Berrien County Association of Churches. The views expressed by the author do not necessarily reflect the views of member churches.

CHURCH NOTES

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 2673 W. John Beers Road, Stevensville, will hold its Kickoff to Christmas at 5:30 p.m. today. It will include a tree lighting, take-home crafts for kids and a drive-in screening of "A Charlie Brown Christmas." The church's next Worship at the Cross service will be at 10 a.m. Thursday. The service, which is part of the church's Jesus Cares Ministry, is geared toward those with intellectual or developmental disabilities.

Peace Lutheran Church, 3590 Lincoln Ave., St. Joseph, will have a tree lighting and Christmas singalong at 6 p.m. Sunday. A large evergreen tree will be lit, the Christmas story will be read, and Christmas songs will be sung. Dress warmly and wear a mask. Hot chocolate will be served. For more information, visit www.PeaceLutheranStJoe.org or call 556-7000.

Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ, 1200 W. Glenlord Road, St. Joseph, will hold its "Blue Christmas" service at 3:30 p.m. Dec. 13. The quiet, reflective service is for those who have had a loss in their family. This year, due to the pandemic, the church asks the larger congregation to not attend in person to save room for those members. The church continues to worship via Zoom at 11 a.m. Sundays due to the pandemic.

Church Notes is a free listing, published each weekend as a public service. Announcements are due by noon Wednesday. Late items will not be published. The editor reserves the right to edit for space and style. Incomplete information may not be published. First and last names should be furnished. Pictures submitted should include names of those shown. Send items to: Church Notes, The Herald-Palladium, P.O. Box 128, St. Joseph, MI 49085; or email to focus@TheHP.com. Items should include a daytime telephone number.

ANNIVERSARY

Rose
65 years

Gene and Gail Rose of Baroda celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with family on Thanksgiving.

Gene Rose and the former Gail Dodson met at a Benton Harbor Junior High School dance in January 1952. On Nov. 26, 1955, they were wed at St. John's Catholic Church in Benton Harbor.

Gene is retired from The Herald-Palladium. He worked here for 40 years, serving as composing room general foreman.

Gail is retired from Link Crisis Center in St. Joseph.

Their children are Michael (Ronda) Rose, Cathleen (Dan) Kuplic and Tony Rose, all of Baroda; Caryn (Brian) McFall, Christopher (Leanne) Rose and Roxanne Behrman, all of St. Joseph; and Vincent (Lori) Rose of Bridgman.

Gene and Gail are members of St. Joseph Catholic Church.

They volunteer at the River Valley Senior Center in Harbert and the Silver Beach Carousel in St. Joseph.

Ariadna and Brian Ferreira wear protective face masks as they pose with their son, Enzo, and Santa Claus, who is sitting behind a transparent barrier, at Bass Pro Shops in Miami.

Lynne Sladky / AP

SANTA

From page C1

railroad in Pennsylvania. Still, he's taking a financial and emotional hit.

"I love what I do ... bringing (children) a little bit of smiles and hope," said Graham, who has played Santa at Radio City for eight years. "I am going to do what I can not to change that."

That was also Six's goal as he settled recently into Santa's throne for a three-hour shift at Miami's Bass Pro Shops.

As families sat in front of the plexiglass for photos, Six tilted his head so his face shield didn't reflect the camera's flash. He cheerfully waved children around the plexiglass so they could tell him their wish list, keeping them 6 feet back.

As he wished them a Merry Christmas, an elf swooped in with disinfectant, wiping the plexiglass and bench before the next group sat.

Six said the arrangement is "a little easier physically on Santa's back because he doesn't have to pick anybody up, but it's not as enjoyable because Santa doesn't get the interaction he normally gets."

But for families, sitting with Santa, even if behind a shield, is a bit of normalcy in abnormal times.

Paul and Sarah Morris and their children, 5-year-old Theo and Sophy, 4, were among the first to visit Six that night. An Air Force family visiting from Hawaii, the Morrises cajoled their children into hugging for their photo.

"Stop wiggling," Theo said, scolding his sister before each sibling told Santa their Christmas wish. Sophy wanted candy; Theo, a remote control Ford Mustang.

"This is definitely different," Sarah Morris said of the setup, "but the kids are excited and that's what matters."

GENERATIONS

From page C1

Other offerings include cooking and food ideas – very timely with just about everyone cooking more. There's also a new Caregiver Support Group offering.

Caring for a loved one can be rewarding and fulfilling, but also overwhelming, challenging or lonely. Sponsored in partnership with Caring Circle and meeting on Tuesdays, participants talk via Zoom with others experiencing the same joys and challenges while sharing coping skills helpful in meeting the many demands of caregiving.

Check it out or recommend it to someone who comes to mind.

Missing your favorite local venue? Maybe The Mendel Center, The GhostLight Theatre, art centers, athletic clubs, a favorite senior center?

Google them or call them up. They've likely figured out some great online or outside ways to get connected. Fight isolation and loneliness, and enjoy your holidays.

Lynn Kellogg is CEO of Region IV Area Agency on Aging in Southwest Michigan. Questions on age or independence services? Call the Info-Line for Aging & Disability at 800-654-2810 or visit www.areaagencyonaging.org. The Generations column appears each Saturday in The Herald-Palladium.

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Conspiracy theories aren't 'conservative'

Jonah Goldberg

You aren't a conservative if you believe in conspiracy theories.

Before I defend this statement, I should say that as a general rule, I do not like statements that begin, "You aren't a conservative if ..."

It's not that I always disagree with such assertions. For instance, "You're not a conservative if you think the state should seize the means of production and usher in a new age of socialist economics" strikes me as not just defensible but self-evidently true – at least if you define "conservative" in the traditional Anglo-American sense. (The most committed Communists in the Soviet Politburo were routinely called "conservatives" because they were trying to conserve something very different from what American conservatives want to conserve.)

My objection is that when people say, "You aren't conservative if ..." they are usually confusing what is with what ought to be. Sure, conservatives ought to be (fill in the blank) pro-life, pro-gun, pro-free market, pro-this or anti-that. But that doesn't mean they all are. And if they disagree on this or that issue, they might simply be wrong. (Conservative is not synonymous with "correct.") Or they might put more emphasis on different factors or concerns.

Think about it this way: Most of the time when people say, "You're not a conservative if ..." they are engaging politics. "You're not a conservative if you aren't protectionist" should be understood as, "We should exile the free traders from the ranks of conservatives so we'll have an easier time winning arguments."

So why are conspiracy theorists different? Well, for starters, conspiracy theories are almost always offered in bad faith because they are non-falsifiable. The moment you provide evidence disproving a conspiracy theory, the response is invariably to resort to an even deeper conspiracy theory – or to accuse the debunker of being "one of them."

For instance, Attorney General Bill Barr, who has been far too loyal to the president throughout his tenure for my taste, recently told the truth: There's no evidence for the vast conspiracy theories Donald Trump has belched out to explain his election loss. The response from many of Trump's most ardent defenders was to insist Barr was in on the "deep state" plot to get Trump.

But the incompatibility of conservatism with conspiracy theories is more fundamental. One of the central tenets of conservatism is the idea that society is too complex to be easily controlled by a despot or even cadres of well-intentioned social engineers and bureaucrats, or what Edmund Burke, the founder of modern conservatism, dubbed "sophisters, calculators and economists."

Burke's argument was more about the nature of a just regime, but it rested on the belief that government planners, no matter how smart, cannot simply will into existence whatever they want the world to look like through raw intellect. This insight was fleshed out by Adam Smith, the Founding Fathers, Friedrich Hayek and scores of other conservative sociologists, economists and philosophers. It's central to every serious explication of conservatism and the free market and every conservative critique of socialism, communism, technocracy and progressivism.

John Locke was arguably the first person to introduce the idea of the law of unintended consequences, which holds that planners cannot foresee all the ways their schemes will interact with real life. And ever since, conservatives have mocked how the schemers always respond by redoubling their efforts.

"The more the plans fail," Ronald Reagan quipped, "the more the planners plan."

Or as William F. Buckley put it: "Idealism is fine, but as it approaches reality, the costs become prohibitive."

But here's the thing: The "sophisters, calculators and economists" had real power. They had the power to make laws, and to order police and armies to enforce them.

And yet we're supposed to believe that conspirators – globalists, the deep state, lizard people or, as QAnon would have you believe, blood-drinking pedophiles – can pull off whatever they want in total secrecy and with no formal power?

Here's a simple fact: The more you know about how government actually works, the less likely you are to believe anyone is actually in control. The idea that secret cabals could blow up the World Trade Center or steal the election, with the active participation of hundreds or thousands of conspirators, is beyond laughable when you consider that passing a budget is often beyond the capabilities of those "in charge."

One of Buckley's top priorities in fashioning modern American conservatism was that it be a worldview grounded in realism. Conspiracy theories aren't grounded in anything beyond the vaporous phantasms of paranoia. They can certainly be "right-wing." But conservative they're not.

Jonah Goldberg is editor-in-chief of The Dispatch and the host of The Remnant podcast.

GOP leaders – don't wait 'til it's too late

Martin Schram

Attention, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and all the Republican leaders who are your followers:

You have maintained your craven silence as President Donald Trump has sabotaged our democracy and is now inciting his cult followers in ways that are endangering patriotic public officials and their families. So today we must ask you:

What will you be saying the morning after a tragic attack – maybe an assassination – wounds or kills a dutiful state or local election official, or their spouse or child?

What will you be saying the morning after we see the tragedy looping across our news screens – and we discover the attacker was a brainwashed Trump true believer who believed the inflammatory words of the president were their call to act?

Will you be wishing on that morning after that you'd had the guts to stop covering up for Trump with your silence and condemn his shameful effort to overturn his 2020 reelection defeat?

Whatever you'll know on that morning after the tragedy is what you must muster the political courage to say – right now!

In Georgia, Trump has repeatedly attacked the governor and secretary of state, as the recounts showed Biden winning the state. Georgia's dutiful secretary of state (a conservative, faith-based Republican) has received death threats; his wife has received what officials called "sexualized threats." Why? Because he was repeatedly denounced by Trump. When a former Homeland Security official said this was the most secure election ever, Trump's lawyer, Joseph diGenova, said he should be shot.

"It has to stop, Mr. President," said Gabriel Sterling, a senior Republican election administrator in Georgia, who now needs around-the-clock police protection at his home.

On Wednesday, Trump put on Facebook a video of an address he said may be "the most important speech I've ever made." It was a 46-minute video of rant and ramble that was loaded with baseless allegations of election fraud that the president said was a "coordinated assault and siege" against our election system. Trump claimed it was "statistically impossible" for him to have lost to President-elect Joe Biden.

If you watched Trump's "most important speech," you saw the president looking very presidential, standing at a lectern adorned with the presidential seal (which is supposed to be used for official events only) in the White House Diplomatic Room. And you heard him sounding like no American president had ever sounded in the history of our republic.

"This election was rigged," said America's 45th president. "Everybody knows it." Trump claimed, without showing any proof, that "corrupt forces" stuffed ballot boxes in "massive" fraud "on a scale never seen before." Russia's Vladimir Putin has spent billions to sabotage America's democracy by making voters distrust their own election system. And Trump has been happy to help.

In a fake reality TV moment, Trump showed you a very hard-to-read chart, saying it showed he was winning decisively in Wisconsin when, at 3:32 a.m., somebody dumped in lots of Biden votes. But wait! That was Trump's old fake non-news con, first tweeted Nov. 18: "Look at this in Wisconsin! … Biden receives a dump of 143,379 votes at 3:42AM, when they learned he was losing badly. This is unbelievable!" (Finally, a true Trump statement – it was absolutely not believable. As fact checks by The Washington Post and Texas Monthly showed, it was just the late-night vote tally, just received from heavily Democratic Milwaukee County.

Of course, Trump offered a solution: The U.S. Supreme Court must "do what's right for our country" – by somehow rejecting hundreds of thousands of votes. That, Trump said, would mean "I very easily win in all states."

Gabriel Sterling, the loyal Georgia Republican who received death threats because he did his job dutifully, continues to tell truth to power. "Mr. President, it looks like you likely lost the state of Georgia," Sterling said. "… It has to stop. Mr. President, you have not condemned these actions or this language. Senators, you have not condemned this language or these actions. … Tell your supporters, 'Don't be violent. Don't intimidate. All that's wrong. It's un-American.'"

Martin Schram is a columnist for Tribune News Service.

LETTERS

Lory's Place is worthy of your support

Editor,

As the end of this difficult year approaches, please don't forget the need of charitable organizations and the donations they so desperately depend on. I know each cause is deserving but please consider Lory's Place this year.

Lory's Place is a local grief healing and education center that has become a vital part of the entire Southwest Michigan community over the past 15+ years. Lory's Place is funded solely by donations, and due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions, their special, yearly fund-raising events are at a standstill. There is no charge for their services, thus making donations even more imperative. Bearing in mind the health crisis we are now facing, the need is even greater than ever for a facility like Lory's Place. It truly is a beacon to those who are lost in sorrow.

My husband and I were aware of Lory's Place and the work they do, but never thought much about it until we lost our son to the ravages of mental illness and ultimately suicide in 2015. We were so broken and devastated by our grief that now it's frightening to think what our lives would be like without our Suicide Loss Survivors Support group and the entire staff at Lory's Place. Here are people who really do know exactly how you feel!

After the loss of a loved one, under any type of circumstances, there is a place for you there to share your grief and all that comes with it. Inside Lory's Place is a caring and understanding atmosphere where you will find acceptance and empathy plus the best tools and resources essential to learning how to cope with grief in your own way. A peer support group is a safe place to share your grief and struggles within a totally judgment-free environment. What happens here, stays here! With Lory's Place, you are not alone, and tears, as well as laughter, are always welcome.

Please consider Lory's Place for your donation and give someone at the worst moment of their life a place to find hope.

Mike and Debra Mattson
St. Joseph

Lots of people did the right thing in 2020

Editor,

Patriotism is not thinking your country's the best, it is wanting the best for your country. At the end of this tough year, I want to thank the patriots – the people who made right choices in the best interest of their nation and neighbors – and the doers – those effective people who merely did what was required of them and made the country work.

Thanks to the healthcare workers. Thanks to the supermarket employees. Thanks to the poll workers and state election officials. Thanks to everyone who chose to wear a mask out of kindness and did not tantrum or need anyone to make them do it. Thanks to the food service workers and employees who worked for tips and to the customers who tipped. Thanks to the teachers, who were incredibly adaptive.

Thanks to the police, first responders, and government workers who faced harsh criticism but were still there when they were needed. Thanks to the protestors who stood up or took a knee for what they believe in a celebratory display of the freedoms that actually make America great. Thanks to those who cleaned up after some of those protests unfortunately went wrong.

Thanks to the soldiers, as always. Thanks to the charity workers and those who gave. Thanks to religious leaders who gave their hearts out without having their hands out. Thanks to the journalists who did not sell out or sell us out. Thanks to anyone who does not need a pardon. Thanks to the scientists and truth seekers. Thanks to all the other patriots not mentioned who just made the right choice this year.

Miles West
Stevensville

Bridgman school staff deserves praise

Editor,

An open letter to the Bridgman school district staff:

Since last March you have made extraordinary efforts in the classroom, on school buses, in food preparation and serving, and in the administrative work that holds the educational team together. The difficulty of doing your jobs within the constantly changing environment of this pandemic can only be imagined by those of us on the sidelines. We know you must be anxious, fatigued and stressed, but those feelings have not stopped you from being kind, cheerful and present in your work. Your students appreciate you and your efforts. They tell us so every day.

We, in turn, want to express our profound appreciation and gratitude for everything that you do to sustain our students' academic and social learning experience in this most difficult time. On behalf of the entire Foundation Board, thank you for your efforts. We are proud to have you in our school district.

Allan Barker
President, Bridgman Foundation for Education Excellence

Trump loses his mind

Editor,

Donald Trump is so scared about what will be found out about him and his family. How they are the swamp for the last 30 years, cheating on taxes, ripping people off. By not paying the contractor that built and did the work to create all the wealth he says he has.

He is the worst president that ever was, he doesn't care about the American people, just the rich – the swamp people he said he was going to drain. He lied to the American people over 25,000 times. He let COVID-19 get out of control. But his buddies are doing just fine in the stock market. People are dying left and right.

Because of Trump, McConnell will not pass a stimulus bill to help small business and to help states that are going bankrupt because they are fighting the virus. And Trump is crying like a baby about a fair election, which he lost.

He is scared to death about when he becomes a private citizen. The state of New York already has a warrant against him and his family.

The government is going to get the truth about Trump, and Bill Barr has cheated and lied, too.

Terry M. Klein
Stevensville

A new era of honesty and competence has begun

Editor,

A fresh breeze is blowing across our national political landscape, bringing with it a new era of honesty, integrity and competence.

Despite the persistent efforts of Donald Trump and his Republican accomplices to undermine our democracy, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris will become our next president and vice-president on Jan. 20.

President-elect Biden has begun the process of selecting his cabinet. The individuals he has announced so far are a historically diverse group of very experienced, very competent public servants. A few examples:

Antony Blinken is the nominee for secretary of state. Blinken served as the deputy national security adviser from 2013 to 2015 and deputy secretary of state from 2015 to 2017.

The nominee for director of national intelligence is Avril Haines, who previously served as deputy national security adviser and deputy director of the CIA. If confirmed, she will be the first woman to lead National Intelligence.

Alejandro Mayorkas is the nominee to become secretary of homeland security. Mayorkas served as the deputy secretary of homeland security from 2013 to 2016. If confirmed, he would be the first Latino and the first immigrant to lead Homeland Security.

The nominee for United Nations ambassador is Linda Thomas-Greenfield, an African-American career diplomat who previously served as the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs.

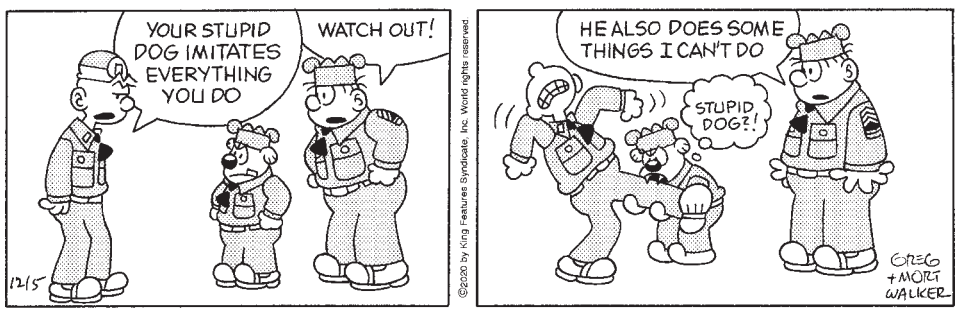
Joe Biden has nominated an outstanding group of individuals to lead our country's diplomatic and national security operations. They are all very familiar with the agencies they will be leading and are very committed to those agencies successfully carrying out their responsibilities.

The Biden-Harris administration has already demonstrated that it will be a refreshing contrast to the incompetence and corruption of the Trump administration.

A new era is beginning – an era in which our president, vice president, White House staff, and cabinet appointees will all reflect the best qualities of our nation.

Larry Feldman
Lakeside

BEETLE BAILEY


YOUR STUPID DOG IMITATES EVERYTHING YOU DO
WATCH OUT!
12/5
HE ALSO DOES SOME THINGS I CAN'T DO
STUPID DOG?!
GREG + MORT WALKER
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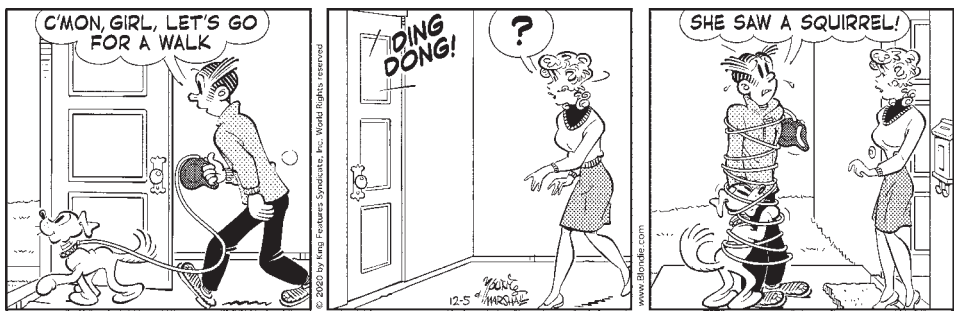
BLONDIE


C'MON, GIRL, LET'S GO FOR A WALK
DING DONG!
?
SHE SAW A SQUIRREL!
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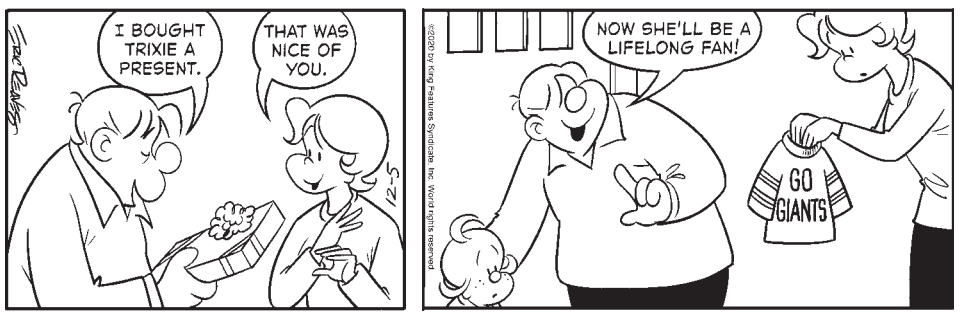
www.Blondie.com

HI & LOIS


I BOUGHT TRIXIE A PRESENT.
THAT WAS NICE OF YOU.
12-5
NOW SHE'LL BE A LIFELONG FAN!
GO GIANTS
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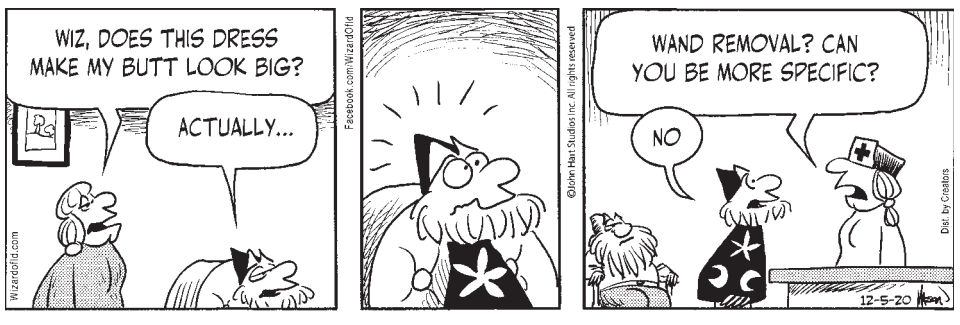
BC

WIZARD OF ID



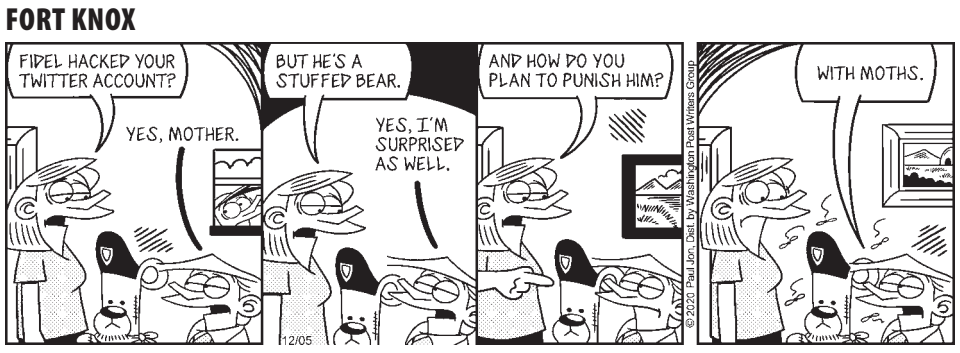
DILBERT

STOP USING YOUR SPEAKERPHONE! I'M TRYING TO MAKE A ZOOM CALL!
DILBERT.COM @SCOTTADAMSSAYS
I CAN STILL HEAR YOU! GO IN THE OTHER ROOM! I SAID GO IN THE OTHER ROOM!
BEING MARRIED SOUNDS FUN.
I CAN STILL HEAR YOU!
12-5-20 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel

GARFIELD

I TOOK MIME LESSONS ONCE
BUT IT DIDN'T GO WELL...
I KEPT GETTING TRAPPED INSIDE THAT INVISIBLE BOX!
JON, JON, JON,
© 2020 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
JIM DAVIS 12-5

FORT KNOX


FIDEL HACKED YOUR TWITTER ACCOUNT?
YES, MOTHER.
BUT HE'S A STUFFED BEAR.
YES, I'M SURPRISED AS WELL.
AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO PUNISH HIM?
WITH MOTHS.
12/05
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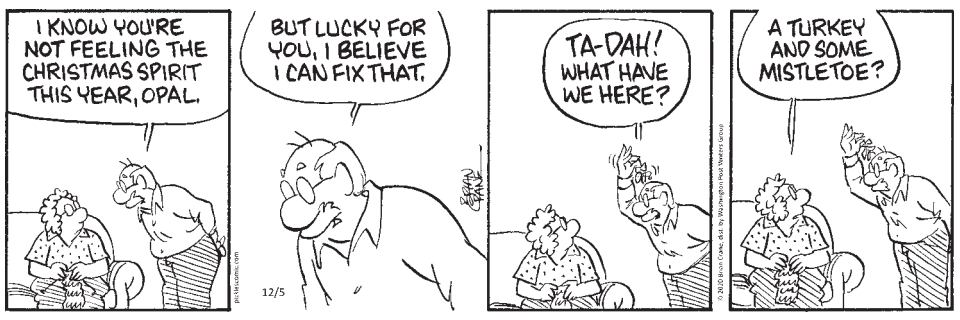
PICKLES


I KNOW YOU'RE NOT FEELING THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT THIS YEAR, OPAL.
BUT LUCKY FOR YOU, I BELIEVE I CAN FIX THAT.
TA-DAH! WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
A TURKEY AND SOME MISTLETOE?
12/5
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FAMILY CIRCUS

"That angel's name is Harold."

DENNIS THE MENACE

"I GUESS I SHOULD BE THANKFUL THERE ARE ONLY TEN COMMANDMENTS."

BABY BLUES

WELL, THE UNTHINKABLE HAS HAPPENED.
WHAT?
WE'LL HAVE TO TRIPLE OUR SECURITY AND NOT LET OUR GUARD DOWN FOR A SECOND.
WHY? WHAT HAPPENED??
WREN FIGURED OUT HOW DOORKNOBS WORK.
GROAN!
HA-HAAAAA!
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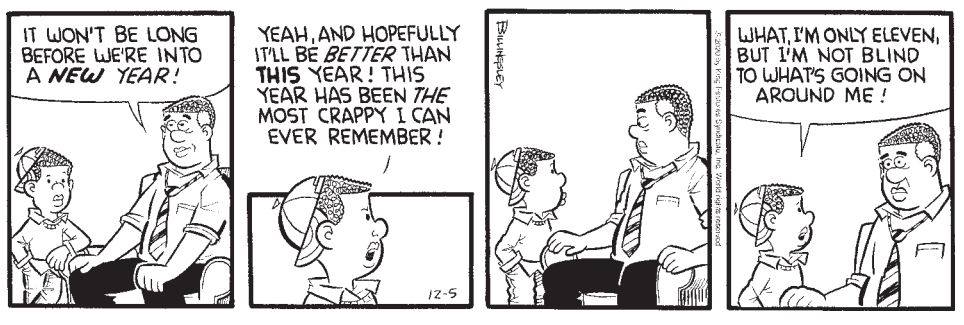
babyblues.com

CURTIS


IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE WE'RE INTO A NEW YEAR!
YEAH, AND HOPEFULLY IT'LL BE BETTER THAN THIS YEAR! THIS YEAR HAS BEEN THE MOST CRAPPY I CAN EVER REMEMBER!
12-5
WHAT, I'M ONLY ELEVEN, BUT I'M NOT BLIND TO WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND ME!

ZITS

I HAD SUCH A GOOD TIME AT LUNCH WITH LYNDA.
A.K.A. MY SPANISH TEACHER.
UNFORTUNATELY, SHE TOLD ME YOUR DEEPEST, DARKEST SECRET.
HUH??
OUTSIDE THIS HOUSE, YOU'RE A DELIGHTFUL YOUNG MAN.
DON'T BELIEVE IT!
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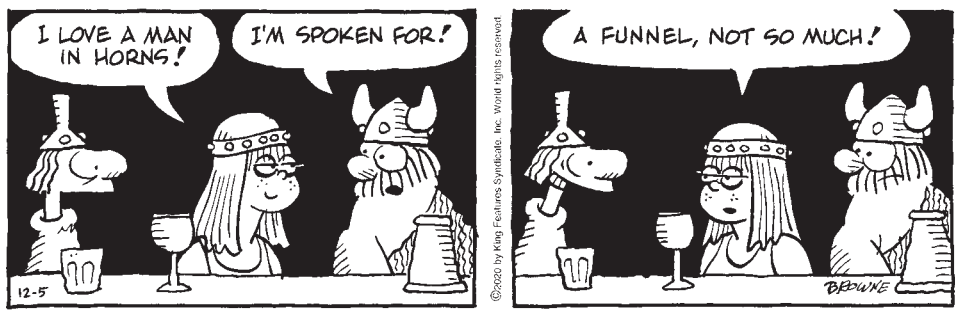
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

12/5
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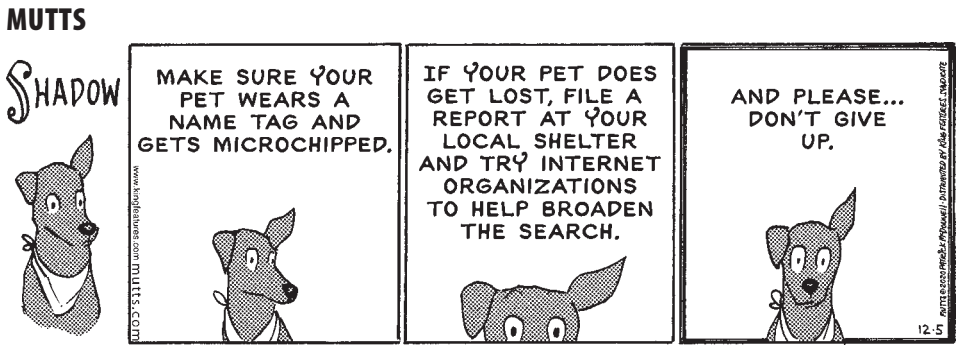
MAYBE IT WAS THOSE JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES I CHASED DOWN THE STREET THAT ONE TIME.

MUTTS


SHADOW
MAKE SURE YOUR PET WEARS A NAME TAG AND GETS MICROCHIPPED.
IF YOUR PET DOES GET LOST, FILE A REPORT AT YOUR LOCAL SHELTER AND TRY INTERNET ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP BROADEN THE SEARCH.
AND PLEASE... DON'T GIVE UP.
12-5
www.kingfeatures.com/mutts.com

SALLY FORTH

WOW... LOU LOOKS MAGNIFICENT.
SURE DOES...
KEEFE
YOU KNOW, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT THIS YEAR HAS BEEN, WE WILL STILL HAVE A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY BECAUSE WE'LL ALL BE TOGETHER.
INDEED.
12-5
THINK IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE TO START CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?
I FEEL LIKE THAT'S YOUR WAY OF SAYING, "THINK YOU'LL BOTH MIND IF I GET ALL YOUR GIFTS FROM JACKIE'S STORE THIS YEAR?"
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- Click on the "Archives" tab in the top menu, and choose "Search Newspapers.com"
- Click on the "Get Archive Access" link to sign up

Look for handy tutorials to help you learn how to use the site effectively

PRIME TIME TV

SATURDAY EVENING DEC. 5

	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30
ABC (7) (13) (41) (57)	College Football Teams TBA. (N) (L)						
CBS (2) (3) (22)	CBS 2 News	Kid of the Year (N) CC		Play On: Celebrating the Power of Music		48 Hours CC	
NBC (5) (8) (16)	Ac. Hollywood	Ellen's Game of Games CC		The Wall "Jeremie and Nikki" CC		Saturday Night Live (N) CC	
FOX (17) (222) (28) (32)	Update	College Football Teams TBA. (N) (L)					
PBS (34)	Abba Forever -- A Celebration Swedish supergroup ABBA.			The Bee Gees One for All Tour -- Live in Australia 1989 CC			
CW (25)	Big Bang Theory	Mike & Molly	Mike & Molly	Seinfeld CC	Seinfeld CC	News	Dreamgirls ('06)
MNT (50)	Graham Bensinger	Dateline "The Devil and Bobbi Parker"		Dateline "The Inside Man" CC		Storm of Suspicion "Doomed By Dew"	
WCIU (26)	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers	Bob's Burgers	Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy	Bob's Burgers
WHME (46)	:00 Heartland	Heartland "Challenges"		Murdoch Mysteries CC		Murdoch Mysteries "Operation: Murder"	
WGN (9)	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	Friends CC	WGN Weekend News at Nine (N)	
A&E	White House	★★ Olympus Has Fallen ('13) Gerard Butler. A disgraced agent must rescue the president. CC					White House
AMC	Santa	★★★ National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation ('89) Chevy Chase. CC				National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation	
Animal	Dr. Jeff	Dr. Jeff: RMV		Dr. Jeff: RMV		Mega Zoo (N)	
BET	Belles	A Christmas Surprise ('00) Witta Pohl.				One Crazy Christmas	
Big Ten	To Be Announced						
Bravo	★★ Burlesque ('10, Drama) Cher. A small-town gal finds her niche at a neoburlesque club. CC					★★ Burlesque ('10) Cher. CC	
Cartoon	The LEGO Batman Movie ('17)			Burgers	American	American	Rick
Cinemax	:00 Warrior CC	★★ Anna ('19, Action) Sasha Luss, Luke Evans, Cillian Murphy. CC				★★ Luv ('12) Common. (P).	
CMT	Coat of Many Colors			Dolly Parton's Christmas of Many Colors			
CNBC	Boss	Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss		Undercover Boss	
CNN	Situation	Situation Room		President in Waiting (N) CC			
Comedy	★★★ Wedding Crashers ('05) Owen Wilson.					★★ Get Hard	
Discovery	:00 Lone Star Law	Lone Star Law "Justice Served" CC		Lone Star Law "Shrimp and Run"		Lone Star Law "Rattled" CC	
Disney	Ladybug	Ladybug	Mickey	Big City	Toy Story	Ladybug	Ladybug
DIY	Galveston	Maine Cabin Masters		Maine Cabin Masters		Maine Cabin Masters	
E!	★★ Fifty Shades Darker ('17) Dakota Johnson.					Fifty Shades Freed	
ESPN	:00 College Football Teams TBA. (N) (L)					Scores	Football
ESPN2	UFC Fight Night: Hermansson vs. Holland - Prelims (N)					UFC Fight Night	
ESPNC	Basket	College Basketball CC				College Basketball	
Food	Diners	Kids Baking		Kids Baking		Buddy vs. Christmas	
Fox News	Life	Watters' World (N)		Justice With Jeanine		Greg Gutfeld	
Fox Sports	:00 College Football ACC Teams TBA. (N) (L)						Lions
Freefrm	:40 Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer		:45 Frosty the Snowman CC		:20 ★★★ The Santa Clause ('94) Tim Allen. CC		
FX	:00 ★★ Daddy's Home 2 ('17, Comedy) Will Ferrell. CC			★★ Office Christmas Party ('16, Comedy) Jason Bateman, Olivia Munn. CC			
Golf	LPGA Golf		PGA Tour Golf Mayakoba Golf Classic, Third Round.				
Hallmark	If I Only Had	Christmas in Evergreen: Bells Are Ringing ('20) Holly Robinson Peete. CC				Christmas in Evergreen: Tidings of Joy	
HBO	Queen & Slim ('19)	★★ The Photograph ('20, Romance) Issa Rae, LaKeith Stanfield. (P). CC				9:50 Industry	:45 Industry
History	:00 History's Greatest Mysteries			History's Greatest Mysteries (N) CC			
HGTV	Property	Chateau		You Live In What?		Love It or List It	
Learning	Welcome	Welcome		Welcome		Welcome	
Lifetime	Too-Christmas	Let's Meet Again on Christmas Eve ('20, Romance) Kyla Pratt. (P). CC				:05 Homemade Christmas ('20) CC	
MSNBC	Voices	Week-Johnson		Week-Johnson		American Voices	
MTV	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.	Ridic.
NBCSCH	Short List	World Class Championship Boxing				Fight Sports MMA	
NFL	6:00 NFL Football CC			NFL Football CC			
Nick	Casagran	Loud	Hustle	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon	Sheldon
NGEO	Drugs,	Drugs, Inc.: The Fix		Drugs, Inc.: The Fix		Trafficked-van Zeller	
Oxygen	:00 Dateline: Secrets Uncovered "The Carrollton Plot" CC			Dateline: Secrets Uncovered CC		Buried in the Backyard CC	
Parmt	6:30 ★★ 2 Guns ('13)			★★ The A-Team ('10) Liam Neeson.			
Showtime	Shameless	Shameless "Found" CC		★ The Turning ('20) Mackenzie Davis. (P). CC			Brahms: Boy II
Starz	Spider-Man	:01 In The Long Run	:26 The Spanish Princess "Peace"		:28 ★ Blumhouse's Fantasy Island ('20) Michael Peña.		
STZENC	:08 ★★ Jagged Edge ('85) Glenn Close. CC			★★★ Chicago ('02, Musical) Catherine Zeta-Jones, Renée Zellweger. CC			
SyFy	6:25 ★★ The Twilight Saga: Eclipse ('10) (P).			:02 ★★ The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 ('11) Kristen Stewart. (P).			
TBS	A Christmas Story	★★★ Wonder ('17) Julia Roberts. (P). A boy who has a facial deformity attends public school.					Full Frontal
TCM	It Happened	★★★★ The Maltese Falcon ('41) Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor. CC (DVS)				★★★★ The Thin Man ('34)	
TMC	:15 ★★★ Slither ('06, Horror) Nathan Fillion. CC			★★ Cabin Fever ('02, Horror) Jordan Ladd. CC			Cabin Fever 2
TNT	Star	:12 ★★★ Star Wars: Return of the Jedi ('83) Mark Hamill.					
Travel	Ghost	Ghost Nation CC		Most Terrifying		Destination Fear (N)	
TV Land	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men
USA	6:15 ★★★ John Wick: Chapter 2 ('17) Keanu Reeves.			★★ San Andreas ('15, Action) Dwayne Johnson, Carla Gugino. CC (DVS)			
VH1	Lean	★★★ Creed ('15, Drama) Michael B. Jordan. CC					
WGN-A	:00 Blue Bloods	NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC		NewsNation (N) (L) CC	

Mom takes son-in-law's side in daughter's custody battle

Jeanne Phillips
Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I got divorced a year ago. Before it became final, there were many court appearances. My husband told my mother we were divorcing because I was unfaithful, which is true. What he didn't say was I felt neglected, abandoned and unwanted, all things he knew because I had discussed them with him and he ignored me.

Either way, she is MY MOTHER, not his, and she showed up with him to a couple of court dates to vouch for him to have custody of our kids! I was sad, mortified and angry. It happened with no warning. Mother and I had not severed contact. As a matter of fact, she had recently spent a week with me and our kids in our home.

Our relationship had never been great, but now it's over. It has been a year since we last spoke, and I feel no remorse, no sadness, no regrets, only anger that she turned against her own daughter. Regardless of what I did, I am her child. As a mother, I would never betray my children, no matter what they did. I was awarded full physical and legal custody of both of them, by the way. Is there something wrong with me for not feeling sad or missing her and being so angry after an entire year has passed? – Numb In New Jersey

DEAR NUMB: Wrong? In your words, your relationship with your mother had never been great. That she appeared in court as a surprise witness for your husband must have been a terrible shock. I assume your mother has not tried to apologize for what she did. If that's true, there is nothing wrong with your justifiable anger unless it's eating at you and negatively affecting your quality of life. If that is what's happening, talking with a licensed psychotherapist will help you straighten out your thinking.

DEAR ABBY: In 2014, my family found out that my father was having an affair. He had been with his wife for 24 years. We all bit our tongues as he moved "Jasmine" in with him and then moved her family into their small, one-bedroom house as well.

Since he got involved with Jasmine, he has started smoking again and lost a lot of weight. We hardly see or talk to him these days. Everything he does she must approve. We know he isn't happy, but he won't admit it to any of us. (We heard it from a couple of his close friends.)

My wedding is coming up in 2021. My fear is that Jasmine will somehow prevent him from going. How can we all approach this subject with him without upsetting him? If he isn't there to walk me down the aisle, it will be a sad day. – Lost In Colorado

DEAR LOST: I don't think that at this point you (all) should approach your father about this. Instead, try befriending Jasmine, which will enable you to keep a closer eye on him and his health. If you can manage that, she may be less likely to prevent your dad from walking you down the aisle. In the meantime, cross your fingers and hope your dad comes to his senses and finds the courage to move the woman and her family out of his home and out of your lives.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

His kid is OK, but anger at his in-laws persists

Carolyn Hax

DEAR CAROLYN: After our young child went through a very scary emergency room visit (but is now OK), my in-laws could not be more unhelpful if they tried.

The narcissistic one is telling everyone they blame themselves for somehow causing the seizures (they live several states away) and the sexist one is blaming my wife for being a bad mother and that it somehow wouldn't have happened if I were there (my wife acted decisively and knew exactly what to do).

I am trying to just focus on my immediate family's needs, but I am struggling to contain the rage and all the other emotions I'm feeling right now. I don't know what my specific question is other than a sanity check that this is beyond abnormal – it is, right? – and how to handle it. – In-Law

DEAR IN-LAW: A narcissist and a sexist walk into a bar ...

... and do self-aggrandizing and misogynistic things, respectively.

Surprise.

Since these are her parents, not yours, you have the extra burden of a reckoning once removed – meaning, your job is more about helping to support your spouse and protecting your kids and managing your outrage.

Her job, meanwhile, is to stand up to her parents, which could be a process of recognizing their issues; understanding how she has been affected by them; learning what is healthy; and learning strategies for maintaining health while not getting sucked into the issues.

If she's more toward the beginning of this progression than the end, then it can be a lot to manage, even without a young child's health emergency to consider.

So you both have your different roles and different weights to bear.

But arguably the most productive thing you can do is keep my stupid joke in mind as you deal with your in-laws, or, better, the fable of the scorpion and the frog: They're going to do what they're going to do. Set your expectations accordingly.

The more you can anticipate their behavior, the less you'll react to it when it happens, and the more effective you'll be at keeping your attention where it matters.

But go ahead and be furious right now, because you've earned it. Glad your little person is OK.

REGARDING IN-LAW: I absolutely agree with your advice, but I do think the husband is well within his rights to calmly respond to all blame being centered on his wife with, "She did the best job possible. I will not let you blame her again," and continue that forward.

I would bet all the money Amazon has that the mom is already blaming herself and internalizing her father's blame. She very well might be able to work through this in the future, but right now – I hope the husband can defend her when she isn't able to. – Anonymous

DEAR ANONYMOUS: Right, yes, thank you. This applies more broadly, too – if the spouse is ever present to witness this kind of mistreatment, it's appropriate to speak up this unequivocally on the spot.

The only exception is if the wife (or whoever is the target of mistreatment) has asked you to let her address this herself.

Email Carolyn Hax at tellme@washpost.com, follow her on Facebook at www.facebook.com/carolyn.hax or chat with her online at noon each Friday at www.washingtonpost.com.

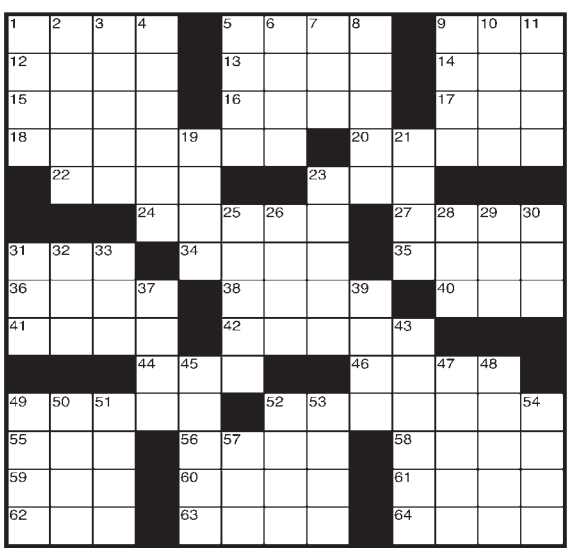
CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Profound
5 Be on your —!
9 Way off
12 "My Way" composer
13 Solemn vow
14 "Pulp Fiction" name
15 Rostrum
16 "Free Willy" whale
17 Voight of film
18 Joins up
20 Palm off
22 She, in Seville
23 Cash dispenser
24 Pleasure boat
27 Perimeter
31 Self-image
34 Accused's need
35 Claw or talon
36 Parroted
38 Form droplets
40 Paramount rival
41 Hard to get
42 Part of GI
44 Aunts and uncles
46 Deep breath
49 Yawned
52 Annoyed
55 Mother lode
56 Placed
58 Puncture
59 Hitchcock's title
60 Millay or Ferber
61 Fifty-fifty
62 Eggs companion
63 Five hundred sheets
64 Tore apart

DOWN
1 Use hip boots
2 Lacking sense
3 Ability
4 Without effort
5 Honk
6 Rowboat's need
7 List ender
8 Elevator opening
9 Japan's highest peak
10 Hoople of the comics
11 Diatribe
19 Auto import
21 Harbinger
23 Book of maps
25 Log home
26 Makes tracks
28 Filly's mother
29 Rock-band booking
30 Freddy Krueger's street
31 Maize unit
32 College stat
33 Above, to Tennyson
37 Hockey feint
39 Check for prints
43 This or that
45 Loafer
47 Mitt
48 — Gurley Brown
49 "Golly!"
50 Pavarotti piece
51 Salon offering
52 Ricci of fashion
53 Wax-coated cheese
54 Fender mishap
57 Fruity drink

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	U	T	Z			F	E	W		N	I	P
A	R	I	E	S		I	R	A		O	D	E
P	L	A	N	K		S	G	T		I	O	C
			D	I	R	T		E	A	R	L	S
		N	E	A	T	O		F	R	I		
V	E	X		O	S	L	O		L	A	B	S
A	P	T		W	E	A	R		S	T	E	P
S	A	R	A		T	R	A	P		A	L	I
E	L	A	N		T	A	G	S		L	I	T
			T	V	A		E	A	G	L	E	
C	A	G	E	R		A	R	L	O			
U	S	O		O	I	L		M	O	R	S	E
R	I	B		O	R	D		S	P	O	I	L
T	A	I		M	E	A			Y	O	L	K



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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

DUEES

SSLAA

ZYNASZ

TPECID

Let's talk about some highlights from your Hall of Fame career! Talk about, "The Catch!"
That was a while ago. I threw it in the 1981 NFC Championship Game.
SAYING, "JOE MONTANA THREW FOR 273 NFL TOUCHDOWNS," IS AN EXAMPLE OF ---
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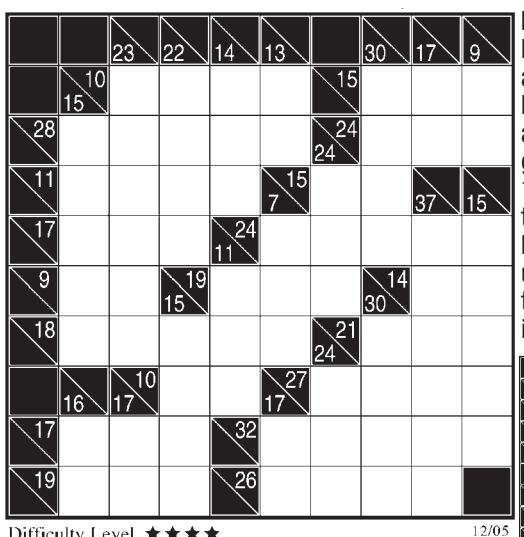
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____" - _____

(Answers Monday)

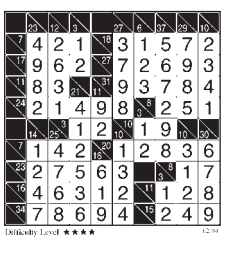
Yesterday's Jumbles: FUSSY CREEK CONFER UNSURE
Answer: When the landfill started to overflow, employees had to — REFUSE THE REFUSE

KAKURO



Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/05

How to play: Numbers above the slash are across clues; numbers below the slash are down clues. The goal is to enter digits 1-9 in the white cells to add up to the number clues. You cannot use any digit more than once when adding up to a clue.



BRIDGE

Henry Ford said, "There is one rule for the industrialist, and that is: Make the best quality of goods possible at the lowest cost possible, paying the highest wages possible."

There is one rule for a bridge player: Win the maximum number of tricks possible with the fewest high-card points possible. In today's deal, North-South have their opponents heavily outgunned, by 27 points to 13. But that does not automatically mean they will drive the shiny Model T from the showroom. How does the play proceed in five spades after West leads the heart jack?

North's raise to three spades promised some values. South used Blackwood, Key Card or regular, hoping that his partner was not aceless. (In my youth, we had a rule that if partner opened two clubs and responder had two aces, he had to give a positive response. This would have allowed South to sign off in four spades here. Not such a bad idea.)

East took the first trick with the heart ace and returned the heart three (bottom of three remaining cards).

At trick three, declarer led his spade king, and West discarded a heart. What did East do?

He could see that if he took this trick, South would get to the dummy with a club and run the spade 10. Not good! So, East let declarer hold the third trick. South played a club to the ace and led the spade 10, but now East used his ace. He exited with a diamond and had to collect a second spade trick.

Note that this was akin to a Bath Coup, but executed by a defender.

North 12-05-20
♠ 10 3 2
♥ 6 4
♦ 7 5 4 2
♣ A 8 7 5

West
♠ —
♥ J 10 9 8 2
♦ 10 8 6 3
♣ 9 6 4 2

East
♠ A J 7 6
♥ A 7 5 3
♦ Q J 9
♣ 10 3

South
♠ K Q 9 8 5 4
♥ K Q
♦ A K
♣ K Q J

Dealer: South
Vulnerable: East-West

South	West	North	East
2♣	Pass	2♦	Pass
2♠	Pass	3♠	Pass
4NT	Pass	5♣/♦	Pass
5♠	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♥ J

SUDOKU

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

					8	4		
6					7			3
			5	3			7	
				5		7	2	
	2	5	8		3	9	6	
	6	9		2				
	7			9	6			
3			7					5
		2	3					

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

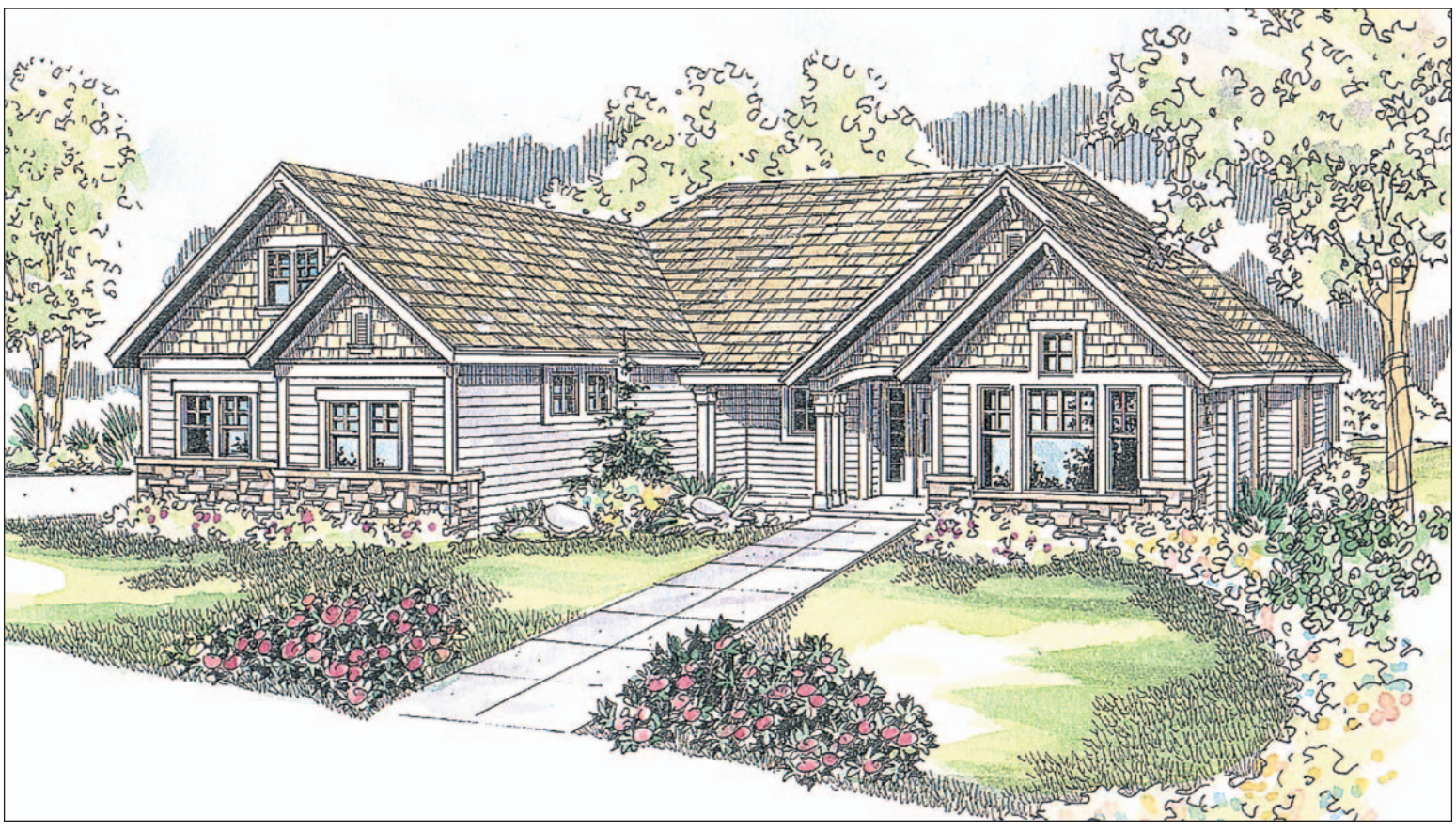
PREVIOUS SOLUTION

5	7	6	8	3	4	1	2	9
9	4	2	7	1	5	8	3	6
8	3	1	6	9	2	4	7	5
6	1	8	5	4	3	7	9	2
4	9	5	2	8	7	6	1	3
7	2	3	1	6	9	5	8	4
1	8	9	3	5	6	2	4	7
3	6	7	4	2	1	9	5	8
2	5	4	9	7	8	3	6	1

hp HOME & GARDEN

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

The Palmer



Four gables and an abundance of sparkling windows give the Palmer an inviting look. Stone veneer wainscoting combines with shake-and-lap siding to provide textural variety, while decorative corbels underscore the gable peaks.

This mid-size home is all on one level, with the exception of a bonus room over the garage.

A naturally bright, wide, open great room is at its core. Standing at the kitchen sink, you can survey the indoor and outdoor living spaces: great room, dining area, partially covered patio and rear yard.

Those seated at the raised eating counter have an equally expansive view. Counters wrap around four sides of this modern kitchen, and custom-fitted bookshelves flank the passageway to the garage and bedroom wing.

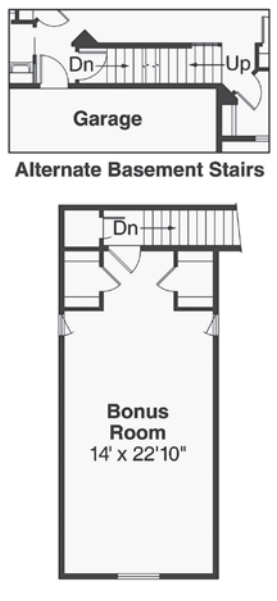
The wide foyer serves as a nexus. On the right, it links with the parlor, owners' suite and great room. Turn left and it becomes a hallway that runs past the powder room and kitchen, then branches again to access the garage, utility room and secondary bedrooms.

Double doors open into the vaulted parlor, where windows fill most of the front wall. Multi-paned windows above shoulder height highlight a gas fireplace, and another fireplace enlivens the great room.

A display nook nestles into a hallway corner just outside the Palmer's luxurious owners' suite. The sleeping area offers direct access to the patio, plus plenty of storage space.

Two large closets, one of them a walk-in, flank the hallway that links the sleeping area to an owners' bathroom with a large shower, spa tub, dual vanity and private toilet.

For more information, or to view other designs, visit www.AssociatedDesigns.com or call 800-634-0123.



House info

House name: Palmer 30-416

Living area: 2,432 square feet

Bonus room: 458 square feet

Garage: 830 square feet

Dimensions: 69-feet by 69-feet

How to take the best real estate photographs

By CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

When it comes to properly presenting your home for sale, next to pricing, solid photography tops the list.

Photography serves as your first point of entry to potential buyers, the portal to first impressions.

Can you take photos yourself, can your broker, or should you hire a professional? When looking to elevate your property, there are some key tips to keep in mind.

■ Pay attention to the sun. Sun can make a difference, especially in a space that may get a lot of daylight. Even lighting conditions and sunny days are best.

■ Use natural light as much as possible.

■ Consider hiring a professional. Working with a professional photographer doesn't have to break the bank. Great photography can do wonders for properly showcasing a space.

■ Look for interesting angles. Creative angles can help add interest.

■ Highlight architectural features. Beyond just wide angles, highlight special or unique features.

■ Be careful when shooting toward windows or glass doors. Often light can spill into a room, creating a washed-out effect.

■ Avoid cloudy or rainy days. These will require considerable additional light, which may look too artificial.

■ Add pops of color to a neutral space to add a sense of contrast.

■ Use lighting to create a mood or emotion.

■ Use reflective surfaces such as mirrors to help bounce light in a room, which will help extend a feeling of spaciousness.

Cathy Hobbs, based in New York City, is an Emmy Award-winning TV host and a nationally known interior design and home staging expert with offices in New York City, Boston and Washington, D.C. Contact her at info@cathyhobbs.com or visit her website at cathyhobbs.com.

A few tips on how to extend your fresh vegetable harvest season into the fall

By LEE REICH
Associated Press

Many gardeners, even in colder regions, inch closer and closer each year to the goal of growing a year-round supply of vegetables.

Corn, peppers, green beans and okra are tucked away in freezers; tomatoes are canned; and turnips, beets and winter squashes can be in "fresh" storage in refrigerators, and even cool mudrooms, garages and basements.

Best of all, though, are those vegetables that can still be picked fresh from the garden. No reason to throw in the towel yet: These vegetables can continue on through some snow and temperatures dropping to the teens.

Lee Reich / AP

Hardy vegetables such as lettuce, endive and arugula can be harvested well into autumn, even in northern gardens, with some protection from "tunnels" covered with clear plastic or row covers.

What to grow for fall (possibly winter) eating

Lettuce, endive, spinach and parsley are among the cold-hardiest vegetables.

Except for parsley, which requires a long season so it needs to be sown earlier in summer, late summer plantings of these cold-hardy vegetables could have begun just as tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and other warm season crops were waning.

That row of parsley might no longer looks like a dense green, miniature rococo landscape, but it's still tasty.

Other vegetables round out the fresh salads. Rocket, or arugula, is quite cold-hardy. A few radishes are still crisp and pungent.

One of the hardiest of fresh salad greens, and also one of the tastiest, is mache, also known as corn salad. The delicate flavor and tender, spoon-shaped leaves belie this plant's tolerance for frigid weather.

Rather than plant mache, I just let it plant itself: Overwintered plants self-seed in early summer but the seeds don't sprout until the cool weather of later summer. I transplant the young plants in early autumn.

Protection to extend the harvest

Over the years, my own autumn salad vegetables have greeted cold weather beneath a variety of protective structures.

One year, they were sheltered beneath homemade plexiglass A-frames, another year beneath miniature glass greenhouses held together by wires, and yet another year within bottomless wooden boxes covered with clear glass.

This year, I draped "floating row covers" – diaphanous materials that hold in some heat yet allow passage of air, light and water – on metal hoops over my lettuces and endives.

Some beds get metal hoops draped with clear plastic, which lets in more sunlight, but not as much cold protection.

Now's not too late to rig up some protective covering for these cold-tolerant plants.

A good site also helps

Leaves of any salad plants in sheltered nooks often remain lush green and turgid long after their counterparts at more exposed sites have turned watery green and flaccid.

For instance, spinach and lettuce planted with their backs against a house or garage wall are not exposed to quite as much cold as plants growing farther away. And any structure, even a low stone wall, soaks up heat as the sun beats on it by day, then releases this solar energy gradually through the night, to the benefit of nearby plants.

This time of year, tender, edible leaves are least likely to be found on plants given an eastern exposure. Leaves frozen at night cannot stand immediate thawing from the morning sun.

Although spinach, lettuce, mache, endive and parsley are alive, they're not growing. The weather's too cold and there's too little light. The leaves of these plants are just sitting, waiting to be harvested.

Very soon, temperatures will get low enough to put a permanent end to the fresh vegetable harvest for the season, at least here in Zone 5 (which includes Michigan).

The roots of most spinach, leek, parsley and corn salad plants, and maybe a few of the lettuce plants, will survive outdoors, even though their leaves will freeze.

In the spring, these roots will fuel growth of succulent new leaves, the first harvest next season, well before any new seedlings are large enough to harvest.

I contend that those first pickings in the spring and these last pickings in autumn taste better than any salad greens you can buy.

Lee Reich writes about gardening for The Associated Press. He has authored a number of books, including "Weedless Gardening" and "The Ever Curious Gardener." He blogs at www.leereich.com/blog. Email him at garden@leereich.com.

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·New Kitchen Cabinets with Easy Slide Cabinet Drawers
·The Basement is Ready to be Turned Into Your Family Room
·Fenced in Back Yard with Large Barn Shed
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Shawn Ashley: 269-845-2317

NEW LISTING

5573 Donald St. $214,900
Stevensville
·3 BR, 2.5 BA, 1,865 SF
·All Brick, Spacious, Ranch Home, Lakeshore School
·Large Master with a Half Bath, Two Full Baths on the Main Level
·Large 2 Car Attached Garage with Storage Space
·A Block from Roosevelt Elementary School and the Public Library
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Tamra Curtis: 325-209-3681

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53154 Walnut Street $175,000
Dowagiac
·4 BR, 3 BA 1,794 SF
·This Large Remodeled Home has Plenty of Room Inside and Out
·Formal Style Dining Room, Oversized Living Room
·Lower Level Family/Rec Room with Wet Bar
·Brazillian Cherry Bamboo Hardwood and Ceramic Floors
CressyEverett.com/20047883
Dave Springsteen: 269-462-2500

TV

5040 Notre Dame Path $1,565,000
Stevensville - Lake Michigan
·3 BR, 3 BA 4,429 SF
·This is the Definition of Luxury Living on Lake Michigan
·High-End Finishes, Stunning Views and Endless Upgrades
·The Open Floor Plan has Multiple Living Areas
·Luxurious Kitchen with Top of the Line Appliances
CressyEverett.com/20043887
Ben Stephen: 269-208-9076

TV

4638 Lake Road $950,000
Stevensville
·5 BR, 2 BA, 1,874 SF
·Welcome to Lake Michigan at Rosemary Beach
·Access to Waters Edge is Right Next Door
·House Sits on a Beautiful Hill Tucked in Tall Trees for Privacy
·Hear the Waves and Watch the Sunset from 3 Decks/Patios
CressyEverett.com/20013864
Shawn Ashley: 269-845-2317

TV

12620 Garr Road $250,000
Buchanan
·3 BR, 3 BA 1,323 SF
·Land, Pond, Privacy and a Beautiful Ranch Home
·Sprawling Living Space Inside and Out
·Great Kitchen Space for Gathering
·Enjoy a Cozy Fire in the Living Room
CressyEverett.com/20040212
Shawn Ashley: 269-845-2317

TV

200 Lake St, 6B $1,195,000
St. Joseph - Condominium
·3 BR, 2 BA, 2,339 SF
·SW Michigan's Beautiful Lighthouse Point
·Silver Beach is at Your Front Doorstep
·With the Carousel, Whirlpool Fountain
·And Shadowland Ballroom in Your Backyard
CressyEverett.com/20012298
Linnea Strunk: 269-605-9063

460 Lee Avenue $188,000
Bridgman - 2 Duplex's
·460/462 - Unit 1&2: 2 BR, 1 BA 720 SF Occupied
·450/452 - Unit 3&4: 2 BR, 1 BA 690 SF Occupied
·Great Investment Opportunity
·Each Unit has it's Own Sliding Glass Door to Private Patio
·Located on a Quiet Street One Block from Schools
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Dave Springsteen: 269-462-2500

26841 Dutch Settlement Rd $425,000
Dowagiac
·A Great Investment Property
·Presently Used as a Daily/Weekly Rental for Golf Outings
·Adjacent to the Spruce Ridge Golf Course
·Large 20x58 All Seasons Room
·Overlooking the 24x60 Indoor heated Pool
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Dave Springsteen: 269-462-2500

2857 Lincoln Avenue $248,000
St. Joseph
·4 BR, 3 BA 1,700 SF
·This Brick Ranch is Well Insulated and Quiet
·Family Room with Fireplace for Lounging
·Enjoy nature in the 3 Seasons Room
·Relax in the Recreational Room in the Basement
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Michael Barber	269-449-6939	Jude Murray	630-280-0077	Kent Schulte	618-553-7038	Levi Sturm	269-277-8446
Tamra Curtis	352-209-3681	Jerry Olson	269-484-4578	David Springsteen	269-462-2500	Erin Tomlonson	906-362-6612
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LUXURY PORTFOLIO INTERNATIONAL

1744 N M-63
5br/4.1ba $3,000,000

"Green Gate" an elegant gated estate on 11 acres directly on Lake Michigan with 354' of beach frontage. Meticulously maintained with manicured grounds and mature trees. Incredible lake views from nearly every room.

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1918 LAKE SHORE DRIVE
5br/4.2ba $1,699,000

Enjoy one of the best panoramic views of Lake Michigan in this prestigious St. Joseph residence! Designed by Architect John Banks and constructed in 2003, there is superior craftsmanship, exquisite finishes, and attention to detail throughout this luxurious home.

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3br/3.1ba $559,000 269.214.0240

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4br/3ba $549,000 269.449.6666

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5340NOTREDAME1.INFO
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980SIERRA.INFO
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1410BARRONLAKERD.INFO
Niles The Wortman Group
4br/1.1ba $169,000 269.876.2929

4150RIDGE7.INFO
Stevensville The Wortman Group
1br/1ba $119,900 269.876.2929

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CoreREI.com

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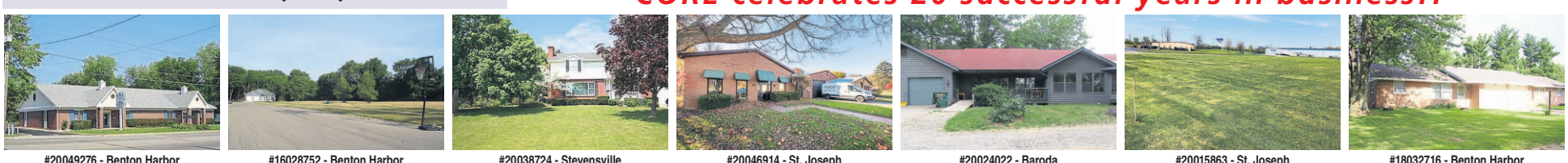
Joe Giannola 208-3989 | Richard Kading 313-3719 | Carole Kelly 208-3741 | Jim Lawson 239-450-7178 | Phil Medo 449-7325 | Earl Misch 876-0715 | Julie Moneta 325-3015 | Kay Schatz 519-5296 | Connie Shearer 208-0001

CORE celebrates 20 successful years in business!!



#20049276 - Benton Harbor
- SUITE FOR LEASE
- Beautiful CLASS 'A' office space
- 858 SF in professional office bldg
- Ground floor entrance
- Large parking lot
- $575/month
- Call Earl Misch 269-876-0715 or Dick Donnellan 269-921-0023

#16028752 - Benton Harbor
- SUBDIVISION LOTS
- TREMENDOUS DEAL FOR DEVELOPER
- 12 LOTS in completed subdivision
- Benton Township
- ONE PRICE BUYS ALL 12 LOTS
- $54,000
- Call Loren Gerber 269-921-0754

#20038724 - Stevensville
- SPACIOUS 4 BR HOME
- Over 2300 SF living space
- Gas-log fireplace
- Nice backyard with deck
- Extra-large storage shed
- Ravine setting on Hickory Creek
- $349,900
- Call Julie Moneta 269-325-3015

#20046914 - St. Joseph
- EXCELLENT COMMERCIAL BLDG
- 12,000 SF cabinet manufacturing facility
- Well maintained offices, showroom, shop area
- On 1.15 ACRES Royalton Twp
- $415,000
- In addition, all equipment also for sale
- Adjacent large vacant lot also for sale
- Call Loren Gerber 269-921-0754 or Dick Donnellan 269-921-0023

#20024022 - Baroda
- 86 ACRES in Baroda Twp
- Totally organic farm, with blueberries
- 2700 SF home 3 BR, 2 bath
- Stone fireplace, large deck
- 2 heated pole bldgs & hangar
- Additional 2 BR home on property
- $840,000
- Call Connie Shearer 269-208-0001

#20015863 - St. Joseph
- INDUSTRIAL / COMMERCIAL LOT
- St. Joseph Twp
- Nearly ONE ACRE
- Just off Hollywood Rd close to I-94
- Great corner location with high visibility
- $69,000
- Call Loren Gerber 269-921-0754

#18032716 - Benton Harbor
- 2-UNIT DUPLEX
- Bainbridge Twp, east of US-31 bypass
- Private, quiet location in the country
- 2 BR each side; 1-car garage each side
- $139,900
- Call Dick Donnellan 269-921-0023

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

UNFURNISHED APARTMENTS

La Porte, IN
One and two bedroom apartments available. Water included. No smoking and no pets.
Call for more information & application at: (801)860-6674

Michigan City, IN

Large, Restored, One Bedroom Victorian. Hardwood Floors, Ceiling Fans, Walk-in Closets, Off-Street Parking, Private Deck. $595.00 including Water. No Dogs.

The Firm Exchange, Inc. 219-363-3134.

HOMES FOR RENT

The Pines

Newer Ranch styled duplex. 2 bedrooms, 1 bath. Refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, microwave, washer/dryer. Central air, city water. Front and back deck for quiet enjoyment. 8x10 shed included. No pets. Close to Beverly Shores.

$750/mo plus utilities. First, last and security.

Call 219-548-1773

WANTED TO RENT

Summer Rental
Retired couple with dog looking for summer rental as close to Lake Michigan as possible - July or August. One week. Email info to: meyr985@msn.com

Trade Lines

Tradeline home delivery routes opening (once a week delivery). Please contact Julie Simpleman to apply 269-429-1877

1. Baroda - Linco to West Hinchman and East, as far as Hollywood Rd. $75.00/2weeks

2. Benton Harbor - Meadowbrook/Sodus Parkway area to E. Empire and East, as far as M140 $240/2weeks

3. Berrien Springs - Area off of Old 31/M 139 - John Beers Rd to East Lemon Creek and West, as far as Hollywood Rd. $270/2 weeks

BUSINESS PLACES/ OFFICES

Michigan City, IN
Hair Salon/Storefront for Lease
Centrally located
High visibility area
Leave Message
574-850-7934

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOMES FOR SALE

NEW BUFFALO, MI
U.S. HWY 12
(Near I-94 Exit 4)

Close to
Lake Michigan

For Sale by Owner

2 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Overlooking 3/4 acre wooded ravine. 2 fireplaces. Recreation room with bar, 2 car detached garage. City water.
Call (813) 240-4494.

LEGALS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOUSE HUNTING?
Watch For Our Open House Ads In The Classifieds!

SPECIAL NOTICE

St. Joseph, MI
I am reaching out to the community for photos and videos of my daughter, Robinette Greening when she attended gymnastics between 1982-1987 at Southwest Michigan Gymnats. Robin passed away 3 yrs ago from cancer. Her daughter is now 6 and interested in gymnastics.
Contact by email: ontherun2_00@yahoo.com

EMPLOYMENT

EDUCATION/ TEACHING

School Guidance Counselor

River Valley School District
Employment info at: www.rivervalleyschools.org
Deadline: Until Filled

TECHNICAL

Help Wanted
Jim's Heating Service
HVAC Service Tech
5 years experience
To apply stop in at 372 S Fair Ave.
Benton Harbor, MI
or call
269-926-1512

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

GENERAL HELP

New Carlisle, IN
Marbach-Palm, Inc.
Now Hiring Full Time Land Surveying Field Technician in New Carlisle, IN.
For more information, job qualifications, and to submit your application please visit www.marbach.us

The City of South Haven is seeking a Senior Equipment Operator in our Water/Sewer division. Individuals with one or more years of experience in the operation of power-driven equipment, including pay loader, snowplow, street sweeper, backhoe and other equipment are encouraged to apply. Must have good driving record, high school diploma or equivalent, possess valid Michigan driver's license and be able to obtain a CDL within 9 months of hire. To view full job posting and apply, go to southhavenmi.gov/human_resources. Deadline for application is Dec 18. EOE

FINANCIAL

GARAGE /ESTATE SALES

GARAGE/ESTATE SALES

Estate Sale
Dec 3rd 4th & 5th
10am to 4pm
2235 Mt Curve Ave
St. Joseph 49085
- - - - - - -
We open the house up at 10am
Will need a mask to enter.
Households. Furniture. tools. Christmas decor. Antiques.
And a house full of more great treasures !

Hartford, MI
Estate/Garage Sale
December 3rd-6th
9:00am - 3:00pm
57828 65 1/2 St.
(Off Red Arrow Hwy)
Hartford, MI
Antiques/Side by Side, 2 Refrigerators, Maple Table, Queen Bedroom Set, Heaters, Men's XL Clothes/Coats, Maple 2pc Hutch, Antique Stove, Lots of Household Misc.
Come rain, snow or shine!
Mask Required.

MERCHANDISE

Sell Your In The Classifieds!

BUILDING MATERIALS

LaPorte, IN
High heat bills
For Sale
Bubble Wrap Foil Insulation
100 ft Rolls
4' 5' 6' wide
Insulate your homes, pole barns, dog houses, etc.
Half price, will keep 97% of heat in home.
cheap!!
219-324-0444

WANTED TO RENT/ BUY/TRADE

Benton Harbor, MI
3 Pillars Music is looking to buy record albums from 1970s to present, older guitars and comic books.
Please contact Tom at 269-313-7001 or 3pillarsmusic@gmail.com

BUYING JUNK
CARS & TRUCKS
Small Cars $200
Medium Cars $300
Large Vehicles $350
Call Larry at (269)326-0510
Or Scott at (269)208-9208

PETS

CATS/DOGS/PETS

Bremen, IN
AKC Black Labrador Retriever puppies. First shots and wormed.Males and females. Ready now. $800.00
Call 574-773-4939

CATS/DOGS/PETS

Goshen, IN
For sale-
Christmas Puppies!
F1B Mini Golden Doodle puppies
Vet checked and UTD on shots, ready for pickup December 7, but would consider holding for closer to Christmas with deposit,
Male & Female
$2,150, call 574-642-0148 ext. 3

FARM

TRANSPORTATION

BOATS FOR SALE

HOBIE CAT 14 Turbo

Tilt bed multi boat road trailer w/full size wheels, w/ spare, w/boat box. Also, rubber balloon tire beach wheels. Very good condition $1100.00

Call 847-561-5500. If no answer, please leave a message

CARS FOR SALE

Benton Harbor, MI
1998 Buick Century custom 4D about 170,000 miles
AM/FM Radio, AC
windshield wiper/sunroof
all work
starter & new brakes, 2 yrs old
trunk & inside very clean, $900
-leave message
269-252-9929

Careers are made in the Classifieds... Find One Today!

SELL YOUR ITEMS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS TODAY!

...BECAUSE MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES!

INVITATION TO BID

PROJECT NAME: Merrill Virtual Learning Center, 148 N. Midland St., Merrill, MI 48637

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Renovations to an existing 4,250 s.f. building include selective demolition, new interior partition walls, interior windows and doors, ceiling systems, lighting, painting, vinyl, epoxy, and carpet flooring, and mechanical, plumbing and electrical work.

OWNER: Berrien Springs Public Schools
PO Box 130
285 Sylvester Avenue
Berrien Springs, MI 49103

ARCHITECT: CARMI Design Group
68817 Cass Street
P.O. Box 627
Edwardsburg, MI 49112
Phone: 269-663-5073

BID DATE:
Bids will be received at the district's Administrative Offices at 285 Sylvester Ave., Berrien Springs, MI 49103 until January 5 2021 at 11:00 AM (local time).

Bids will be publicly opened at the Administrative Offices and read aloud at this time. Bids received after this time will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened.

Bids shall be properly and completely executed on the Bid Proposal Form included within the Project Manual and submitted in duplicate. Bids shall be clearly marked as "Merrill Virtual Learning Center" on the front side of the submitted envelope.

PRE-BID MEETING:
A Pre-Bid Meeting will be held on 15 December 2020 at 11:00 AM (local time) at 148 N. Midland Street, Merrill, MI 48637.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY AND USE:

Bid Documents may be viewed at the following Plan Rooms on or after 7 December 2020.

Builders Exchange of Kalamazoo
3431 East Kilgore Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49001-5513

McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge
2521 E. Michigan Ave.
Lansing, MI 48912

Builders Exchange of Michigan
678 Front Ave NW, Suite 330
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

CDC News
One Oakbrook Terrace
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

McGraw-Hill Construction Dodge
401 Hall Street SW Suite 128B
Grand Rapids, MI 49503

Construction Association of Michigan
43636 Woodward St.
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

Bona Fide bidders may obtain Bidding Documents from the Architect's Office upon payment of$50.00 for each set with a limit of three (3) sets. Checks made payable to CARMI Design Group. Please note that the P.O Box must be included when sending items to CARMI Design Group via the USPS or it will not be delivered.

Said Payment for Bidding Documents shall be refunded to bidders, provided Bidding Documents are returned intact and in good condition to CARMI Design Group within five (5) calendar days after bid due date. There will be no exceptions.

Bidding documents are also available electronically at no charge, via email. Please email your request to Susan Weiss, susan@carmi.boz.

BONDS:
A five precent (5%) Bid Bond shall accompany each bid, The successful bidder will be required to provide a Performance Bond, Labor and Material Bonds, and certificates of Liability and Worker's Compensation Insurance.

OTHER CONDITIONS AND INFORMATION:
1. Each bid shall be accompanied by a sworn and notarized statement disclosing any familial relationship that exists between the owner or any employee of the bidder and any member of the Berrien Springs Public Schools board of education or the superintendent of the school district.

2. No bidder may withdraw their bid for a period of Thirty (30) calendar days after the date set for bid opening.

3. Public Act 517 of 2012 (effective December 31, 2012) enacted the "Iran Economic Sanctions Act", which prevents "Iran linked businesses" from bidding on a school district or ISD's request for proposals ("RFP"). This law requires that persons submitting bids certify that they are not an "Iran linked business," which is defined as either:
a) A person engaging in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran, including a person that provides oil or liquefied natural gas tankers or products used to construct or maintain pipelines used to transport oil or liquefied natural gas for the energy sector of Iran; or
b) A financial institution that extends credit to another person, if that person will use the credit to engage in investment activities in the energy sector of Iran.

4. Berrien Springs Public Schools reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or irregularities in bids, and to accept any bid which is deemed most advantageous to the public interest.

People DO Read Small Ads. You Did!

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5

Try something new and exciting. Plan your actions and be responsible as you make changes to improve your life. Speak up and share your thoughts and plans with people close to you. Standing up for your beliefs will put you in a favorable position when opportunities come your way.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Forming a partnership, sharing expenses or getting your documents in order is encouraged. An energetic approach will pay off. Refuse to let an emotional situation slow you down or lead you astray.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Improve your life by making your surroundings comfortable and convenient. Refuse to let an emotional matter escalate when all it takes is understanding and kindness to solve a problem.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Put an end to uncertainty by voicing your opinion. A change or move someone makes may be upsetting initially, but the result will benefit you. It's time to start something new.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Take hold of a problem before someone else does. It's necessary to take charge if you want to control your future. Make personal changes that will improve your life.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Spend less time explaining what you will do and more time putting your plans in motion. Don't depend on others to do things for you. A physical activity will help ease stress.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) An unexpected change will end up being to your benefit. Go with the flow, and you'll come out on top. Don't share personal information or lead someone on.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) A partnership will not be as it appears. Listen to what's being said. A promise someone makes isn't likely to be honored. Handle relationships with care. Be honest.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Invest time and money in yourself or in something you want to pursue. Be resourceful and save your money for an important project. A financial opportunity looks promising.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Do something that requires energy, intelligence and skill. Follow your heart and do your own thing. A change someone makes will cause emotional tension. Don't lose sight of your goals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Pay attention to how you look, feel and do things. Refuse to let anyone twist your words or pressure you into something undesirable. When faced with opposition, proceed with caution.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Gather information and prepare to take action. If you don't like what's happening in your backyard, clean up the mess and move forward. Uncertainty will make you nervous, but don't act in haste.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Look over your options and gather information. Be secretive about your intentions, and put everything in place before you share your plans. An unexpected plan of attack will pay off.

HOROSCOPE

By EUGENIA LAST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Get involved in issues and make a difference. Stand up for your rights, speak the truth and find solutions. Use your imagination to create an environment that satisfies your needs. Walk away from chaos and divisive behavior and toward peace and harmony.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Verify facts, build a strong case to justify your actions and do what's best for you. An adjustment at home will improve your life. Open discussions will lead to positive results.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Emotions will surface if you get into a dispute with someone close to you. Bide your time and be observant, and you will instinctively make the right decision.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 19) Don't take what someone says to heart. Follow through with questions, and you'll discover discrepancies. Consider how best to use your time to your advantage. A lucrative opportunity beckons.

PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Helping others is honorable, but don't let anyone take advantage of you. Someone you least expect will withhold information that could change the way you think or do things.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Be discreet about your plans. How you handle your finances, negotiate contracts and deal with uncertainty will be important. Head in a direction that soothes your soul.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Listen carefully. Someone will make false claims that will confuse you. Stay focused on your responsibilities, and pay attention to detail. Don't let an emotional decision lead to regret.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) If someone continually lets you down, have an open discussion and be blatant about what needs to happen. You may not get your way, but you will know where you stand and what you have to do.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) Being upset won't resolve anything. If you don't like what someone is doing or saying, distance yourself from that person. Stay focused on what's important to you. Romance is favored.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Participate in something that motivates you to stay active and make a difference in your community. Physical fitness, a thirst for knowledge and stepping outside your comfort zone to help bring about change will alter your life.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Keep your emotions tucked away. Focus on something you enjoy doing that helps improve your skills and ability to raise your income or awareness. Take time to rejuvenate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Spend more time nurturing meaningful relationships and less time dealing with demanding people who ask too much of you. Uncertainty at home will push you to make some changes.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Ask questions, sum up what you hear and make decisions based on what will bring you the best return for your time, effort and money. Use your imagination, but don't chase an unrealistic dream. Do what's right.

CROSSWORD

Crossword Answers D4

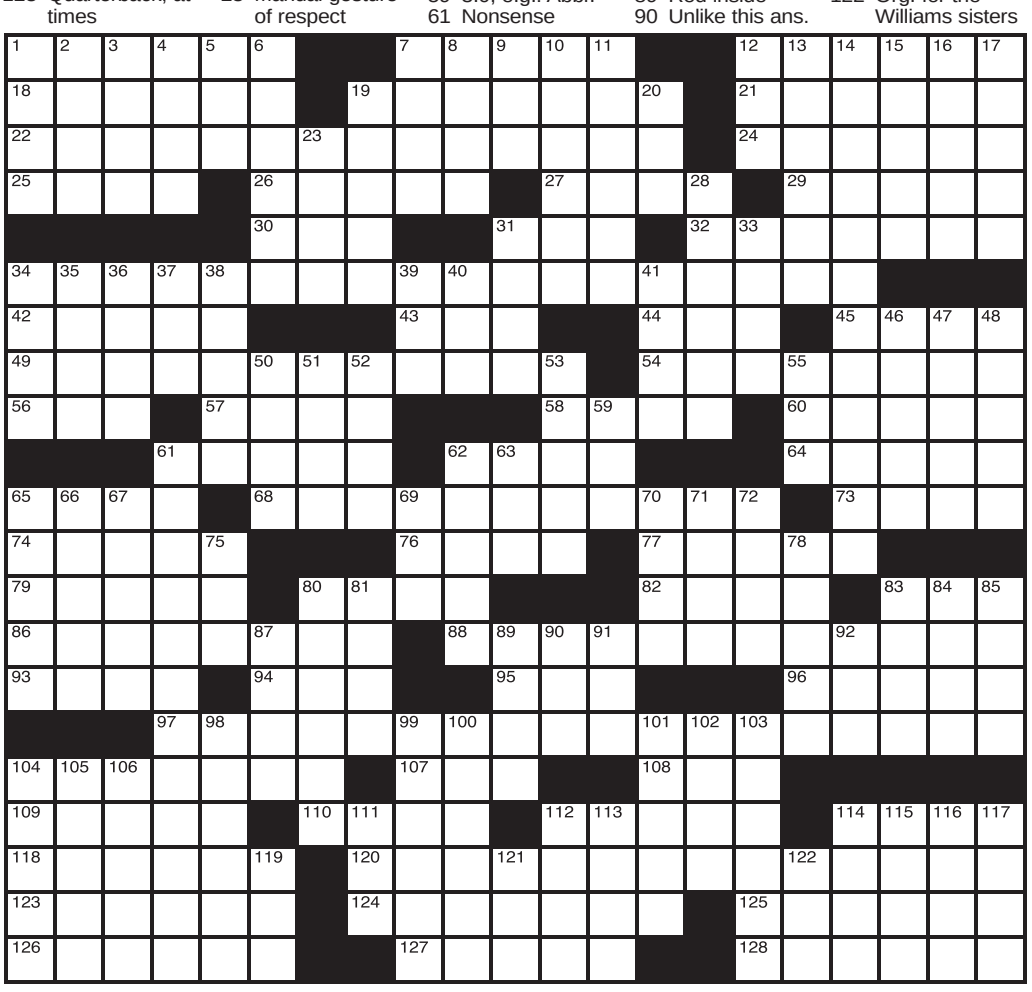
Los Angeles Times Sunday Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis

"CEL MATES" By PAUL COULTER

ACROSS
1 Nicaraguan president Daniel
7 Elaborate dos
12 Complicated situations
18 Brit's editorial
19 Formally disciplined
21 Clothing
22 Disney dog serving in Congress?
24 Nova __
25 "Ah, me!"
26 Spring zodiac sign
27 Mil. decorations
29 Put up
30 Dorm, briefly
31 Part of FNMA?
32 Assumed the role of
34 Dale's brother, away from their home turf?
42 Name near the top of a "Citizen Kane" movie poster
43 Bed-and-breakfast, maybe
44 Lord's Prayer start
45 "If all __ fails ... "
49 One of Snow White's pals acting shellfishly?
54 Surveillance tactic
56 Photo __
57 City near Provo
58 Arch type
60 O, The __ Magazine
61 Fernando's fire
62 URL intro
64 Suffice
65 Trendy berry
68 Franchises owned by Donald's girlfriend?
73 Line holder
74 Gets thinner
76 Big name in pet food
77 Sweatshirt options
79 Bear
80 Egyptian Christian
82 Sign of cooking
83 Well put
86 Games category
88 Kitchen cooker belonging to 22-Across' beau?
93 "Night" author Wiesel
94 Baseball card stat.
95 Trick taker, often
96 "Rolling in the Deep" singer
97 Plans made by Bambi's skunk buddy?
104 Subject of 2001's "Blow"
107 "Bravo!"
108 Tide competitor
109 Battery part
110 Chowder order
112 Informal byes
114 Heave-ho
118 Enigma
120 Hoggett's pig strolling on a forest path?
123 Feral feline
124 Developing
125 Perfect spot
126 Moistens overnight, maybe
127 Backgammon piece
128 Quarterback, at times

DOWN
1 Cantina cooker
2 Authentic
3 "Et voilà!"
4 Big name in ice cream
5 Old Metro maker
6 Sounds from a kennel
7 Manitoba tribe
8 Fireworks reactions
9 "Who am __ judge?"
10 Like some laws or lords
11 Figured (out)
12 More, in Madrid
13 "And so on and so forth," for short
14 Shop owners
15 Located
16 "Fear of Flying" author Jong
17 Capacity count
19 Bridge ancestor
20 Ab neighbor
23 Not kosher
28 Manual gesture of respect
31 "__ Lisa"
33 "Cooking From the Hip" chef Cat __
34 Silver salmon
35 '60s civil rights activist __ Brown
36 Xfinity and MSN
37 Suddenly appear, with "up"
38 "This round's __"
39 Minute Maid brand
40 Blowup: Abbr.
41 Audio giant
46 "Casablanca" actor Peter
47 Urbane
48 Singing Merman
50 Cézanne's "Boy in __ Vest"
51 Dreamcast maker
52 Mine, in Metz
53 Closet pests
55 Ali's 37
59 3.0, e.g.: Abbr.
61 Nonsense
62 Marriott rival
63 Channel showing many old MGM and RKO films
65 Let up
66 Plotting ring
67 One can help you get off
69 Bit of a draft
70 Its four-word name was reduced to four letters in 1973
71 Okays
72 Sweep's target
75 "Comprende?"
78 King's iconic vision
80 All-natural flytrap
81 Five-year-old Ron Howard first played him in 1960
83 "Absolutely!"
84 Bombard
85 Chic modifier
87 1982 Disney sci-fi film
89 Red inside
90 Unlike this ans.
91 __ culpa
92 Citrus drink suffix
98 Hide
99 Mountain ash trees
100 Nearly entirely
101 "Cool!"
102 David who played Rhoda's husband Joe
103 Relax
104 Chocolate substitute
105 Chilled
106 In need of deciphering
111 Kimono sash
112 Diez squared
113 About, on a memo
114 Barrage from bleacher "birds"
115 "Uh-oh!"
116 Yellow comics dog
117 Bygone despot
119 UFO crew
121 DDE's WWII domain
122 Org. for the Williams sisters



12/6/20 xwordeditor@aol.com ©2020 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Answer To Today's Puzzle

O	R	T	E	G	A			C	O	I	F	S			M	E	S	S	E	S
L	E	A	D	E	R		W	R	O	T	E	U	P		A	T	T	I	R	E
L	A	D	Y	O	F	T	H	E	H	O	U	S	E		S	C	O	T	I	A
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			F	U	E	G	O		H	T	T	P				S	E	R	V	E
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12/6/20

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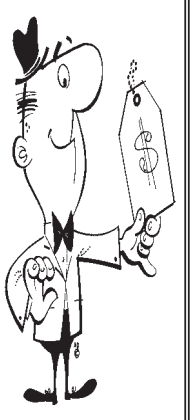

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Ford

2020 FORD EXPEDITION LIMITED STEALTH 4X4

ICONIC SILVER METALLIC, LEATHER SEATS, PANORAMIC VISTA ROOF, 2ND ROW BUCKET SEATS, 22 INCH ALUMINUM WHEELS, NAVIGATION, 360 DEGREE CAMERA, ENHANCED ACTIVE PARK ASSIST, POWER RUNNING BOARDS, AND MUCH MORE! F20321

SOLD

MSRP	$50,105
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,110
FORD F-SERIES RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 2,500
FORD SELECT INVENTORY CUSTOMER CASH	- 750
FORD BONUS CASH	- 1,500
FORD RETAIL TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $40,245

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 FORD F-150 SUPERCREW XLT 4X4

VELOCITY BLUE, SPORT APPEARANCE PACKAGE, LED BOX LIGHTING, POWER SLIDING REAR WINDOW, 2.7 V6 ECOBOOST ENGINE, NAVIGATION, TRAILER HITCH, REVERSE SENSING SYSTEM, AND MUCH MORE! F20202

MSRP	$57,720
ADD FOR VOTH DUMP BODY	+18,386
SUBTOTAL	$76,106
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,854
FORD F-SERIES RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 500
FORD COMMERCIAL CONNECTION UPFIT CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $70,752

2020 FORD F-550 4X4 DUMP TRUCK

OXFORD WHITE, 6.7 POWER STROKE DIESEL, PAYLOAD PLUS UPGRADE, POWER WINDOWS AND LOCKS, TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER, SNOW PLOW PREP PACKAGE, VOTH DUMP BODY, AND MUCH MORE! F20380

2020 FORD ESCAPE SE ALL WHEEL DRIVE

DARK PERSIAN GREEN METALLIC, HEATED FRONT SEATS, REAR VIEW CAMERA, KEYLESS KEYPAD, FORD CO-PILOT 360, 1.5 ECOBOOST ENGINE, AND MUCH MORE! F20302

MSRP	$29,450
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,255
FORD CREDIT RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 700
FORD TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
FORD CAR TO ESCAPE OWNER LOYALTY*	- 500
FORD RETAIL TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 2,000

SALE PRICE* $23,995

PLUS 0% FOR 60 MONTHS

(WITH APPROVED CREDIT) (*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)

2020 FORD TRANSIT MEDIUM ROOF CREW CARGO VAN AWD

OXFORD WHITE, 5-PASSENGER SEATING, TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER, 3.5 ECOBOOST V6 ENGINE, REMOTE START, BLIND SPOT AND CROSS TRAFFIC ALERT, ALUMINUM WHEELS, SYNC 3, LONG ARM POWER HEATED MIRRORS, HEAVY DUTY TRAILER TOW PACKAGE, AND MUCH MORE! F20278

MSRP	$53,355
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,360
FORD SELECT INVENTORY RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 750
FORD RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 1,750
FORD YOUR FUTURE IS OUR BUSINESS BONUS CASH*	- 500
FORD COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $46,995

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 FORD EXPLORER LIMITED 4X4

RAPID RED METALLIC, TWIN PANEL MOON ROOF, TRAILER TOW PACKAGE, 20 INCH HAND POLISHED ALUMINUM WHEELS, HANDS FREE LIFTGATE, HEATED SEATS, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, POWER-FOLD THIRD ROW SEATS, 360 DEGREE CAMERA, B & O 12 SPEAKER SOUND SYSTEM, REMOTE START, NAVIGATION, AND MUCH MORE! F20360

MSRP	$55,140
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,195
FORD CREDIT RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 2,700
RETAIL TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 2,000

SALE PRICE* $48,245

PLUS 0% FOR 60 MONTHS

(WITH APPROVED CREDIT) (*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU FORD MOTOR CREDIT)

2020 FORD FUSION SE

RAPID RED, POWER MOONROOF, REVERSE SENSING SYSTEM, FORD CO-PILOT 360, REAR VIEW CAMERA, SATELLITE RADIO AND MUCH MORE! F20240

FORD 10 YEAR/100,000 MILES FORD PROTECT POWERTRAIN WARRANTY

MSRP	$27,185
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 1,690
FORD RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 1,200
FORD RETAIL TRADE-IN ASSISTANCE BONUS CASH*	- 2,000

SALE PRICE* $22,295

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 FORD TRANSIT 15 PASSENGER XLT WAGON

AGATE BLACK METALLIC, PRIVACY GLASS, LIMITED SLIP REAR AXLE, WHEEL SIMULATORS ADDED, FORD CO-PILOT 360, REAR VIEW CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! F20297

MSRP	$49,610
ADD FOR WHEEL SIMULATORS	+ 888
SUBTOTAL	$50,498
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,003
FORD SELECT INVENTORY CUSTOMER CASH	- 750
FORD RETAIL CUSTOMER CASH	- 1,750
FORD COMPETITIVE CONQUEST BONUS CASH*	- 1,000

SALE PRICE* $44,995

(*MUST QUALIFY)

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BIG FINISH 2020

CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep RAM

2020 RAM 2500 CREW CAB 4X4

BLACK, 6.4 V8 ENGINE, HEAVY DUTY SNOW PLOW PREP PACKAGE, CHROME APPEARANCE GROUP, ANTI-SPIN REAR AXLE, REAR WINDOW DEFROSTER, TOUCH SCREEN AND MUCH MORE! C20140

SOLD

MSRP	$55,175
LESS EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 4,700
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$50,475
REBATE	- 200
RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 500
BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$49,275
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
CONQUEST LEASE CASH	- 500

AS LOW AS $48,275

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE OVERLAND 4X4

IVORY 3-COAT PAINT, 19 SPEAKER HIGH PERFORMANCE AUDIO, NAVIGATION, LANE DEPARTURE WARNING, ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, HEATED SEATS, DUAL PANE PANORAMIC ROOF, AND MUCH MORE! C20292

MSRP	$30,330
LESS EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 1,897
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$28,433
REBATE	2,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 750
BONUS CASH	- 250
SALE PRICE FOR EVERONE	$25,433
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $24,433

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2021 JEEP COMPASS LATITUDE 4X4

JAZZ BLUE PEARL, POWER SEAT, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, TOUCH SCREEN RADIO, HEATED FRONT SEATS, BACK-UP CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! C21003

2020 DODGE CHALLENGER R/T 50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

WHITE KNUCKLE EXTERIOR, HARMAN KARDON AUDIO GROUP, 5.7 HEMI V-8 ENGINE, NAVIGATION, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, 20 INCH WHEELS, REMOTE START, HEATED FRONT SEATS, MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE! C20298

MSRP	$45,745
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 2,000
REBATE	- 3,750
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$39,995
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $38,995

(*MUST QUALIFY)

2020 RAM 1500 CREW CAB LARAMIE 4X4

HYDRO BLUE PEARL, LEATHER BUCKET SEATS, SPORT APPEARANCE PACKAGE, 5.7 HEMI V8 ENGINE, NAVIGATION, WHEEL TO WHEEL SIDE STEPS, TRAILER BRAKE CONTROLLER, ANTI-SPIN REAR AXLE, HEATED FRONT SEATS, 20 INCH WHEELS, SPORT PERFORMANCE HOOD, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, BLIND SPOT AND CROSS PATH DETECTION, AND MUCH MORE! C20198

MSRP	$57,125
LESS EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 6,835
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$50,290
RAM BONUS CASH COUPON NOVEMBER	- 250
TRUCK OWNER CONQUEST RETAIL BONUS CASH*	- 1,000
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$49,040
CONQUEST LEASE CASH*	- 500
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $48,040

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 JEEP RENEGADE LATITUDE 4X4

BLACK CLEAR COAT, HEATED FRONT SEATS, TOUCH SCREEN, HEATED STEERING WHEEL, REMOTE START, BACK-UP CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! C20176

MSRP	$28,875
LESS EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 1,790
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$27,085
REBATE	- 1,500
CHRYSLER CAPITAL 2020 BONUS CASH*	- 750
BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$24,335
2020 RETURNING LESSEE *	- 500
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $23,335

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 JEEP CHEROKEE LATITUDE PLUS 4X4

DIAMOND BLACK CRYSTAL, ALTITUDE PACKAGE, 18 INCH GLOSS BLACK 5-SPOKE WHEELS, TOUCH SCREEN RADIO, POWER SEAT, BLIND SPOT AND CROSS PATH DETECTION, BACK-UP CAMERA, AND MUCH MORE! C20265

MSRP	$32,030
LESS EMPLOYEE PRICING DISCOUNT	- 1,993
EMPLOYEE PRICING FOR ALL	$30,037
REBATE	- 1,000
CHRYSLER CAPITAL BONUS CASH*	- 750
RETAIL BONUS CASH	- 750
BONUS CASH	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$27,037
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500
RETURNING LESSEE CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $26,037

(*MUST QUALIFY/MUST FINANCE THRU CHRYSLER CAPITAL)

2020 RAM 5500 4X4 CHIPPER BODY

BRIGHT WHITE, 6.7 CUMMINS TURBO DIESEL, CHROME APPEARANCE GROUP, CHROME TUBULAR SIDE STEPS, VOTH CHIPPER BODY, AND MUCH MORE! C20221

MSRP	$58,305
ADD FOR VOTH CHIPPER BODY	+21,308
SUBTOTAL	$79,613
SIEMANS DISCOUNT	- 3,118
REBATE	- 500
RAM BONUS COUPON	- 250
ON THEJOB COMMERCIAL UPFIT*	- 1,000
COMMERCIAL TRUCK SEASON BONUS CASH*	- 500
SALE PRICE FOR EVERYONE	$74,245
MILITARY CONSUMER CASH*	- 500

AS LOW AS $73,745

(*MUST QUALIFY)

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2012 HONDA CIVIC LX

1.8 EFI Engine, Automatic Transmission, Styled Wheel Covers, 146K Miles, Power Windows, CD-Player, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked, Gray, U20140A

NOW $7,558

2016 MERCEDES 4MATIC GLE350 AWD

3.5 EFI Engine, 7 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 71K Miles, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seating, Power Dual Panel Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Palladium Silver, F20388A

NOW $27,964

2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 33K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Moon Roof, Touchscreen Display, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Rear Park Assist, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Billet Silver U20174

Was $31,951 NOW $28,240

2017 HONDA ACCORD EX

2.4 EFI Engine, Automatic Transmission, Aluminum Wheels, 26K Miles, Remote Start, Power Driver's Seat, Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Silver, F20420A

Was $20,884 NOW $18,997

2014 JEEP WRANGLER UNLIMITED 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 5 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 73K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, 3-Piece Hard Top, Heated Front Seats, Touchscreen Display, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked, Black U20176

Was $31,749 NOW $27,723

2017 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE ALTITUDE 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 37K Miles, Remote Start, Power Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Billet Silver U20181

Was $31,228 NOW $28,880

2019 FORD TRANSIT 350 XLT 15 PASSENGER VAN

3.7 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 18K Miles, Preferred Equipment Package, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Oxford White U20112A

Was $32,729 NOW $28,781

2017 FORD EXPLORER PLATINUM 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 30K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, Front and Rear View Cameras, Lane-Keeping System, Active Park Assist, Reverse Sensing System, Power Lift Gate, Trailer Tow Package, Ford Certified! Shadow Black C20288A

Was $35,989 NOW $34,785

2018 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE LIMITED 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 26K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Moon Roof, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Reverse Park Assist, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Black Diamond U20180

Was $33,520 NOW $29,955

2017 RAM 1500 EXPRESS CREW CAB 4X4

5.7 V8 HEMI EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Chrome-Clad Wheels, 71K Miles, Anti-Spin Differential Rear Axle, Touchscreen Display, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ram Certified! Maximum Steel, C21025A

NOW $28,833

2017 CHRYSLER PACIFICA TOURING L PLUS

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 9 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 65K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Power Side Side Doors, DVD Entertainment System, Reverse Park Assist with Stop, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Chrysler Certified! Granite, P20104A

NOW $23,927

2019 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 10K Miles, Security Cover, Red Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Heated Front Seats, Dynamic Hitch Assist, Pre-Collision Assist, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Ruby Red, F20399A

Was $39,995 NOW $37,803

2019 FORD F-150 LARIAT SUPERCREW DIESEL 4X4

3.0 V6 EFI Turbo Diesel Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, Only 9K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Chrome Step Bars, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Memory Power Adjust Pedals, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Twin Panel Moon Roof, Blind Spot Information System, Reverse Sensing System, Trailer Tow Package, Trailer Tow Monitor, Trailer Back Up Assist, Smart Trailer Tow Connector, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Ruby Red C20246A

Was $54,990 NOW $51,973

2018 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 11K Miles, Remote Start, SYNC 3, Chrome Step Bars, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Pedals, Blind Spot Information System, Trailer Tow Monitor, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Magma Red F20218A

Was $40,966 NOW $36,936

2018 FORD FUSION SE AWD

2.0 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Only 13K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, SE Luxury Package, Power Driver's Seat, Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, SYNC 3, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Magnetic, F20394A

Was $22,883 NOW $20,434

2019 FORD F-150 LARIAT SUPERCREW 4X4

5.0 V8 EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 31K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Memory Power Adjust Pedals, Heated Steering Wheel, 2 nd Row Heated Seats, Twin Panel Moon Roof, 360 Degree Camera, Pre-Collision Assist, Blind Spot Monitor with Trailer Towing Monitor, Smart Trailer Tow Connector, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Agate Black, C21013A

NOW $47,373

2018 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 44K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Chrome Step Bars, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Pro Trailer Back-Up Assist, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! White Gold, C20261A

Was $39,872 NOW $35,380

2016 FORD EDGE SEL AWD

2.0 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 35K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Blind Spot Monitor, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Hands Free Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Kona Blue, F20285A

Was $23,810 NOW $20,549

2017 FORD FOCUS SEL HATCHBACK

2.0 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 58K Miles, Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Kona Blue, M20086A

Was $13,995 NOW $13,495

2016 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE HIGH ALTITUDE 4X4

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 55K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, Dual Panel Panoramic Moon Roof, Blind Spot and Cross Path Detection, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Trailer Tow Group IV, Remote Keyless Entry System, Jeep Certified! Brilliant Black, C20306A

Was $30,663 NOW $28,987

2017 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500 LT 4X4

5.3 V8 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 45K Miles, Remote Start, Bed Liner, Running Boards, Power Driver's Seat, Auto Climate Control, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Gray, U20206

NOW $32,679

2018 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, Only 15K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Bed Liner, Running Boards, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black, C20316A

NOW $39,995

2015 DODGE JOURNEY CROSSROAD

2.4 EFI Engine, 4 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 87K Miles, Power Driver's Seat, Leather Trimmed Seating, Three Zone Temp Control, Touchscreen Display, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Vice White, F20334A

Was $13,904 NOW $12,955

2017 FORD EXPLORER XLT 4X4

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 35K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Dual Panel Moon Roof, Blind Spot Information System, Forward and Reverse Sensing System, Back-Up Camera, Hands Free Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black, C20219A

NOW $31,973

2016 FORD EDGE SEL AWD

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Polished Aluminum Wheels, 49K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Blind Spot Monitor, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Hands Free Lift Gate, Trailer Tow Package, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! White Platinum, F20410A

Was $22,923 NOW $21,652

2014 VOLKSWAGEN PASSAT SE

1.8 EFI Engine, Automatic Transmission, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 156K Miles, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! White

Was $9,822 NOW $8,454

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN SXT

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 42K Miles, Remote Start, CD-Player, Power Driver's Seat, Power Slide Side Doors, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Powertrain Factory Warranty! White Knuckle S20013

Was $20,500 NOW $18,995

2017 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCAB 4X4

2.7 V6 EFI Ecoboost Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 39K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Power Driver's Seat, Reverse Sensing System, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black U20186

Was $34,618 NOW $32,228

2017 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCAB 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 10 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 49K Miles, Security Cover, Bed Liner Mat, Running Boards, Remote Start, Navigation, Trailer Tow Group, Pro Trailer Back-Up Assist, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, SYNC 3, Power Heated Front Seats, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black F20376A

Was $34,980 NOW $31,241

2018 HONDA FIT EX HATCHBACK, GRAY

1.5 EFI Engine, CVT Automatic, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 44K Miles, Power Moon Roof, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Gray, F20375A

Was $16,357 NOW $15,612

2019 DODGE GRAND CARAVAN GT

3.6 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 46K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Seating, Heated Steering Wheel, Stow 'N Go Seats, Auto Climate Control, Power Slide Side Doors, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Granite S20012

Was $20,995 NOW $19,995

2015 MAZDA CX-9 GRAND TOURING AWD

3.7 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 78K Miles, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, White, M20077A

NOW $18,995

2016 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

5.0 V8 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 45K Miles, Remote Start, SYNC 3, Bed Liner, Chrome Step Bars, Power Heated Front Seats, Power Adjust Pedals, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Trailer Tow Group, Pro Trailer Back Up Assist, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Blue Jeans, F20436A

NOW $34,552

2017 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER XLE AWD

3.5 V6 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, 24K Miles, Navigation, Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Lane Departure Warning, Blind Spot Monitor, Cross Traffic Alert, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Balance of Factory Warranty! Predawn Gray Mica, C20227A

Was $33,226 NOW $31,850

2017 FORD EXPLORER PLATINUM 4X4

3.5 V6 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Machined Face Wheels, 58K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, SYNC 3, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, 2nd Row Heated Seats, 3rd Row Power-Fold Seats, Panoramic Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, Adaptive Cruise Control, 180 Degree Front Camera, Lane Keeping System, Reverse Sensing System, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Trailer Tow Package, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! White Platinum, F20437A

NOW $33,821

2017 FORD ESCAPE TITANIUM

2.0 Ecoboost EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Wheels, Less Than 15K Miles! Remote Start, Navigation, Memory Power Leather Heated Front Seats, Auto Climate Control, Blind Spot Monitor, Reverse Sensing System, Active Park Assist System, Rear View Camera, Hands Free Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Magnetic, F20400A

Was $21,455 NOW $20,829

2013 TOYOTA PRIUS C HYBRID HATCHBACK

1.5 EFI Engine, CVT Automatic, Styled Wheel Covers, 107K Miles, Auto Climate Control, CD-Player, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Blue

Was $9,994 NOW $8,337

2015 GMC YUKON DENALI 4X4

6.2 V8 EFI Engine, 8 Speed Automatic, Aluminum Spoked Wheels, 58K Miles, Remote Start, Navigation, Running Boards, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Front Seats, 2nd Heated Seats, Heated Steering Wheel, Power Moon Roof, DVD Entertainment System, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Black, C20305A

Was $40,827 NOW $39,709

2017 FORD F-150 XLT SUPERCREW 4X4

2.7 V6 EFI Engine, 6 Speed Automatic, Chrome-Like PVD Wheels, 36K Miles, Chrome Step Bars, Power Driver' Seat, Power Adjust Pedals, Rear View Camera, Remote Keyless Entry System, Ford Certified! Shadow Black, C20162A

NOW $36,625

2016 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LIMITED AWD

3.5 EFI Engine, Automatic Transmission, Aluminum Wheels, 117K Miles, Memory Power Leather Heated/AC Seats, Power Moon Roof, Auto Climate Control, CD-Player, Rear View Camera, Power Lift Gate, Remote Keyless Entry System, Car Smart Checked! Gray, C21020A

Was $24,943 NOW $24,397

8961 Red Arrow Hwy
Bridgman, MI
269-465-5344 or 269-925-3673

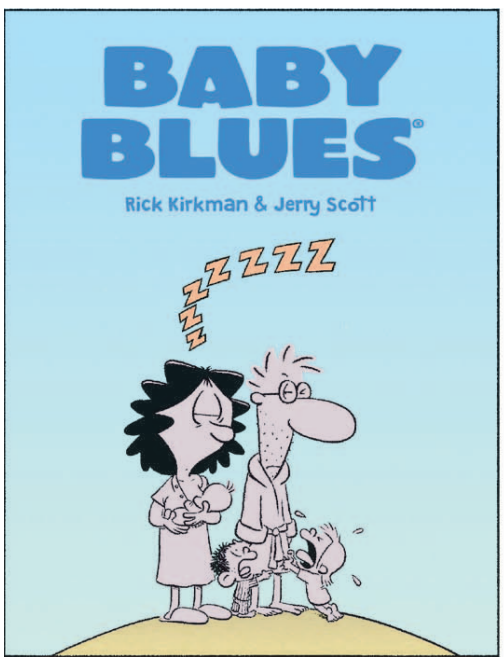
www.siemansinbridgman.com
Sales Dept. Hours: Mon, Thurs 9-8,
Tues, Wed, Fri 9-6, Sat 9-4

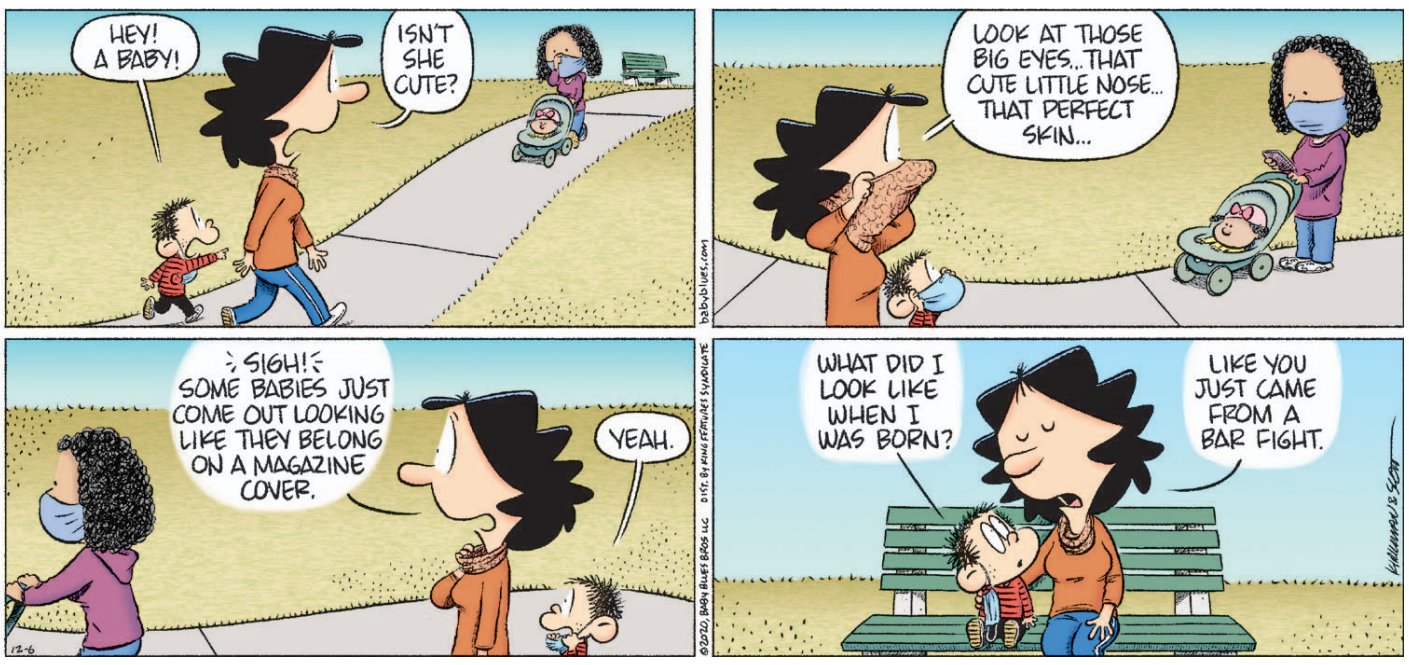
Weekend Comics

DEC. 5-6, 2020

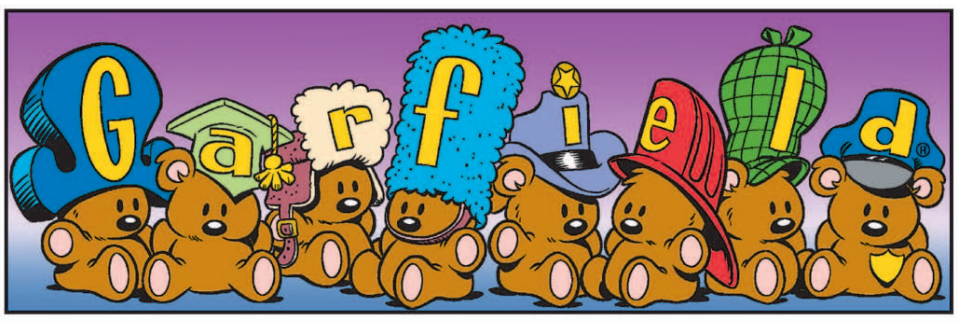
BABY BLUES

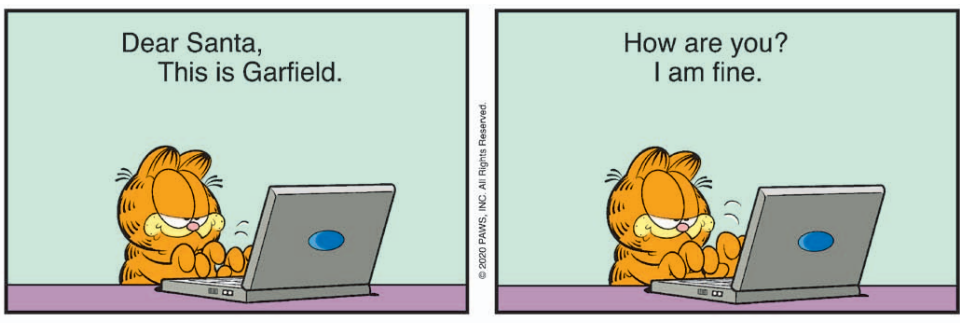
Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

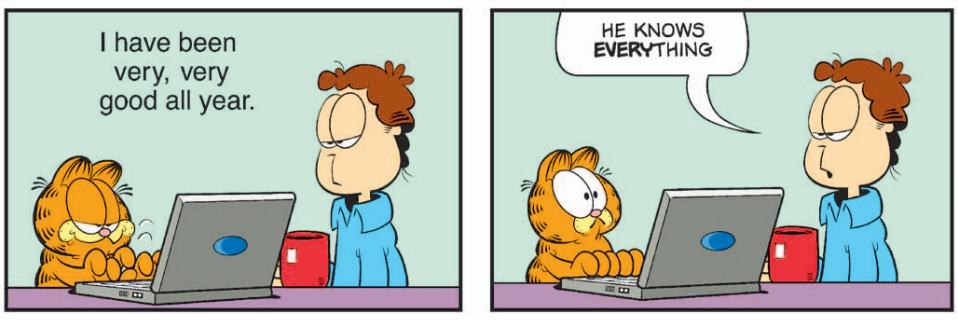



HEY! A BABY!
ISN'T SHE CUTE?
babyblues.com
LOOK AT THOSE BIG EYES...THAT CUTE LITTLE NOSE... THAT PERFECT SKIN...
SIGH! SOME BABIES JUST COME OUT LOOKING LIKE THEY BELONG ON A MAGAZINE COVER.
YEAH.
12-6
©2020, BABY BLUES BABS LLC. DIST. BY KING FEATURES SYNDICATE
WHAT DID I LOOK LIKE WHEN I WAS BORN?
LIKE YOU JUST CAME FROM A BAR FIGHT.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

Garfield



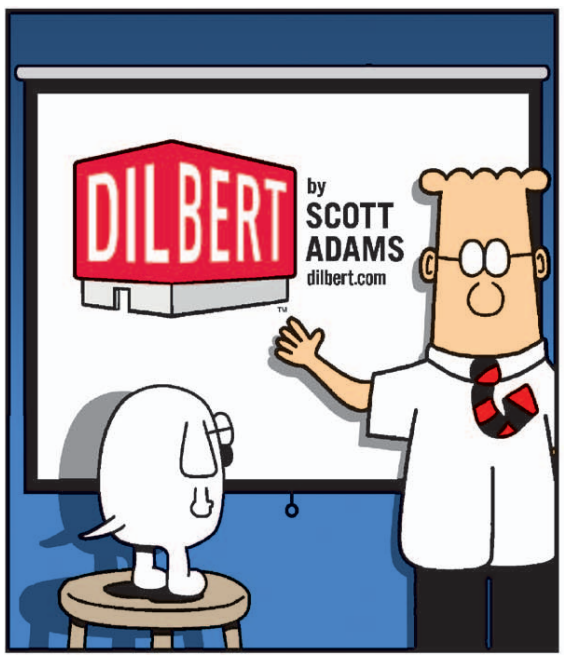


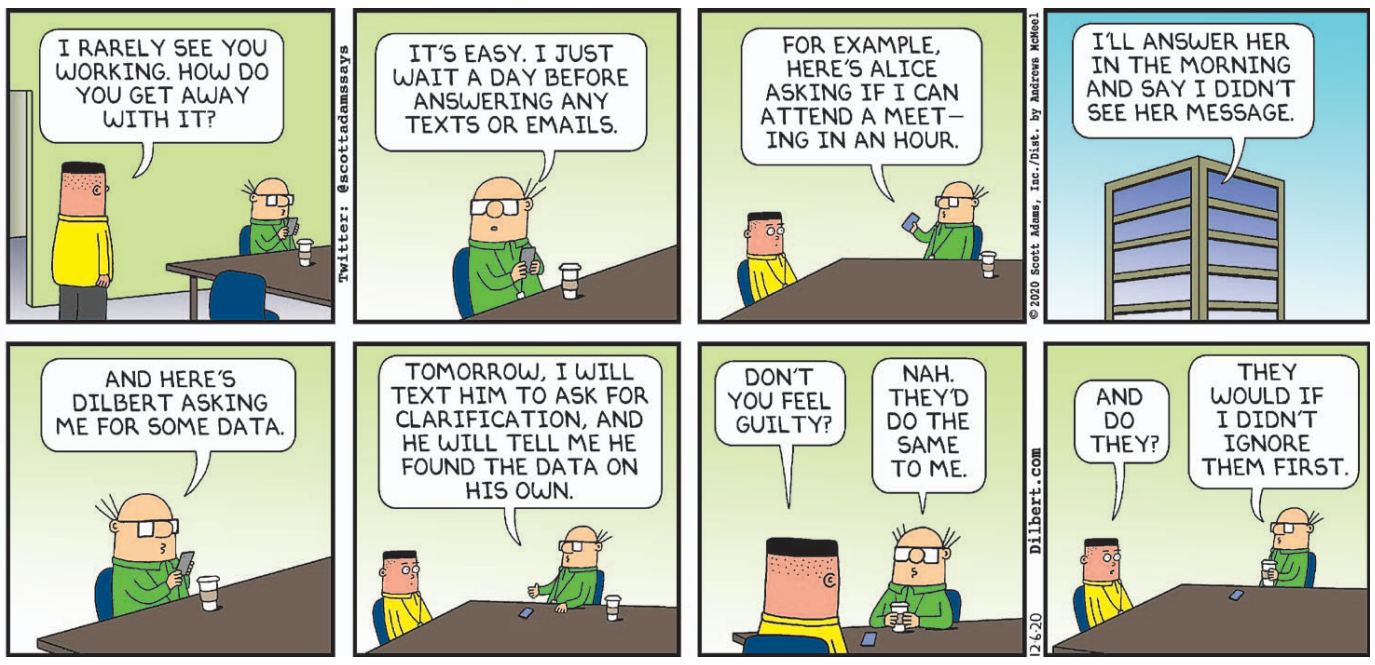

I have been very, very good all year.
HE KNOWS EVERYTHING
Distributed by Andrews McMeel Syndication
Okay, but it was just the one ice cream truck.
JIM DAVIS 12-6

DILBERT

by SCOTT ADAMS

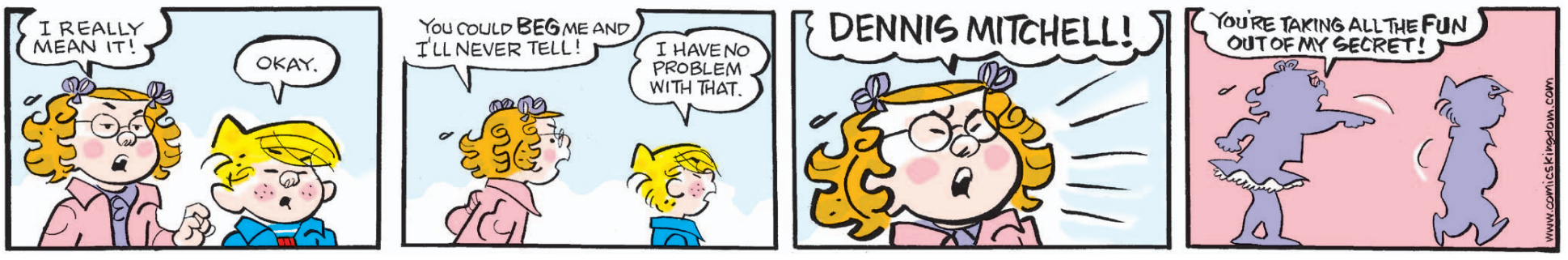
dilbert.com




I RARELY SEE YOU WORKING. HOW DO YOU GET AWAY WITH IT?
Twitter: @scottadamssays
IT'S EASY. I JUST WAIT A DAY BEFORE ANSWERING ANY TEXTS OR EMAILS.
FOR EXAMPLE, HERE'S ALICE ASKING IF I CAN ATTEND A MEET-ING IN AN HOUR.
© 2020 Scott Adams, Inc./Dist. by Andrews McMeel
I'LL ANSWER HER IN THE MORNING AND SAY I DIDN'T SEE HER MESSAGE.
AND HERE'S DILBERT ASKING ME FOR SOME DATA.
TOMORROW, I WILL TEXT HIM TO ASK FOR CLARIFICATION, AND HE WILL TELL ME HE FOUND THE DATA ON HIS OWN.
DON'T YOU FEEL GUILTY?
NAH. THEY'D DO THE SAME TO ME.
Dilbert.com
12-6-20
AND DO THEY?
THEY WOULD IF I DIDN'T IGNORE THEM FIRST.

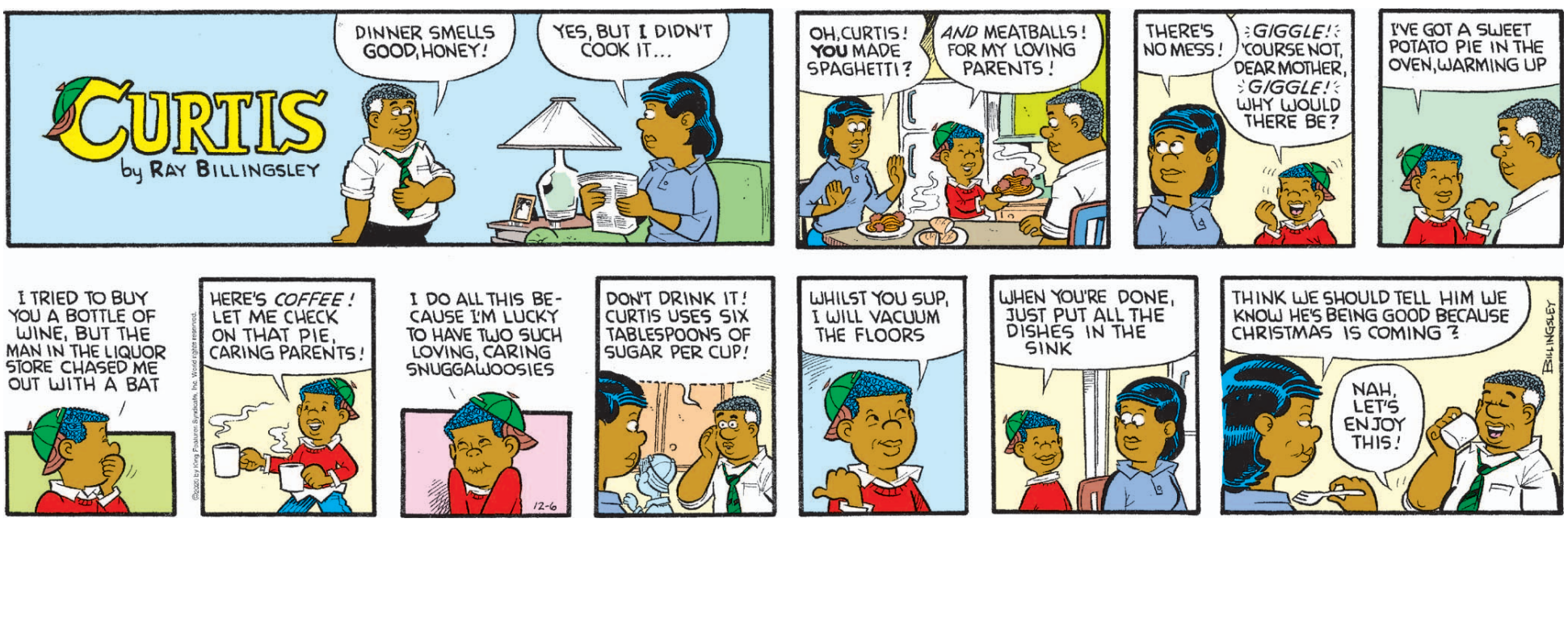
Hank Ketcham's Dennis the Menace

CARELESS WHISPER


I REALLY MEAN IT!
OKAY.
YOU COULD BEG ME AND I'LL NEVER TELL!
I HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH THAT.
DENNIS MITCHELL!
YOU'RE TAKING ALL THE FUN OUT OF MY SECRET!
www.comicskingdom.com

CURTIS

by RAY BILLINGSLEY


DINNER SMELLS GOOD, HONEY!
YES, BUT I DIDN'T COOK IT...
OH, CURTIS! YOU MADE SPAGHETTI?
AND MEATBALLS! FOR MY LOVING PARENTS!
THERE'S NO MESS!
GIGGLE! 'COURSE NOT, DEAR MOTHER, GIGGLE! WHY WOULD THERE BE?
I'VE GOT A SWEET POTATO PIE IN THE OVEN, WARMING UP
I TRIED TO BUY YOU A BOTTLE OF WINE, BUT THE MAN IN THE LIQUOR STORE CHASED ME OUT WITH A BAT
HERE'S COFFEE! LET ME CHECK ON THAT PIE, CARING PARENTS!
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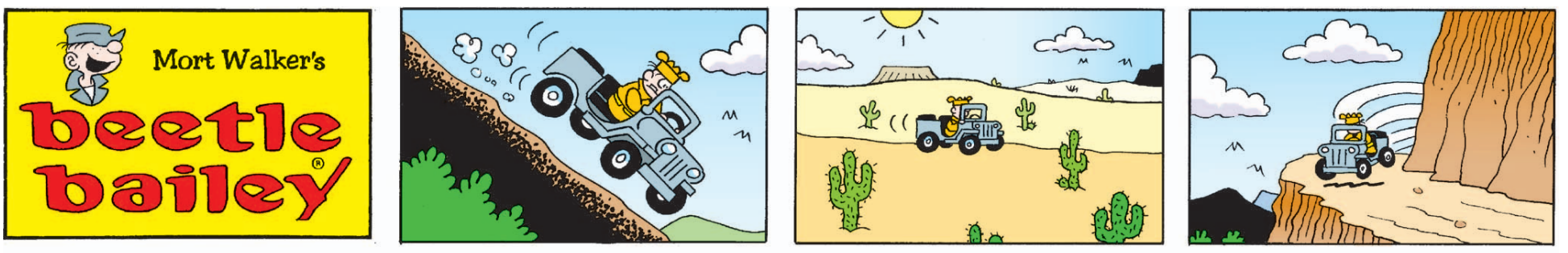
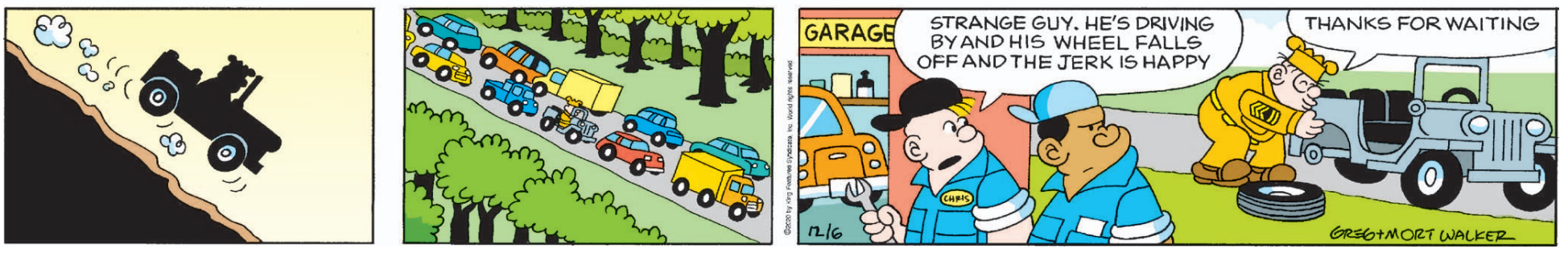
I DO ALL THIS BE-CAUSE I'M LUCKY TO HAVE TWO SUCH LOVING, CARING SNUGGALWOOSIES
12-6
DON'T DRINK IT! CURTIS USES SIX TABLESPOONS OF SUGAR PER CUP!
WHILST YOU SUP, I WILL VACUUM THE FLOORS
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, JUST PUT ALL THE DISHES IN THE SINK
THINK WE SHOULD TELL HIM WE KNOW HE'S BEING GOOD BECAUSE CHRISTMAS IS COMING?
NAH, LET'S ENJOY THIS!
BILLINGSLEY

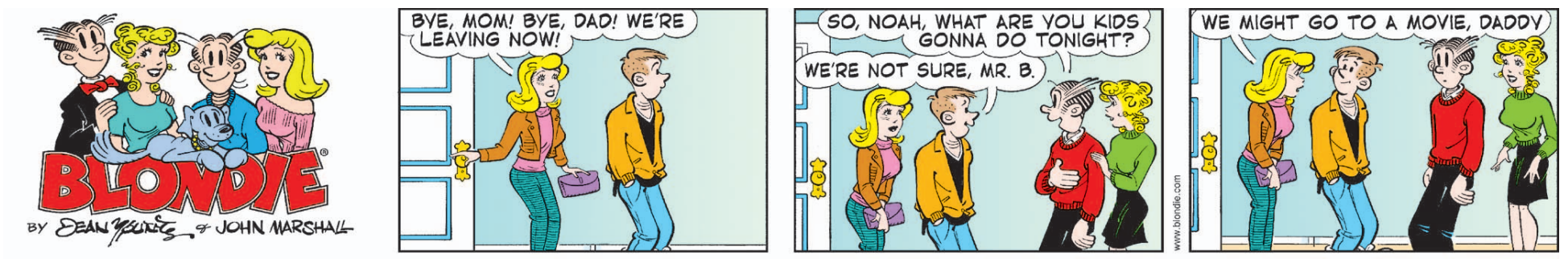
Mort Walker's beetle bailey®

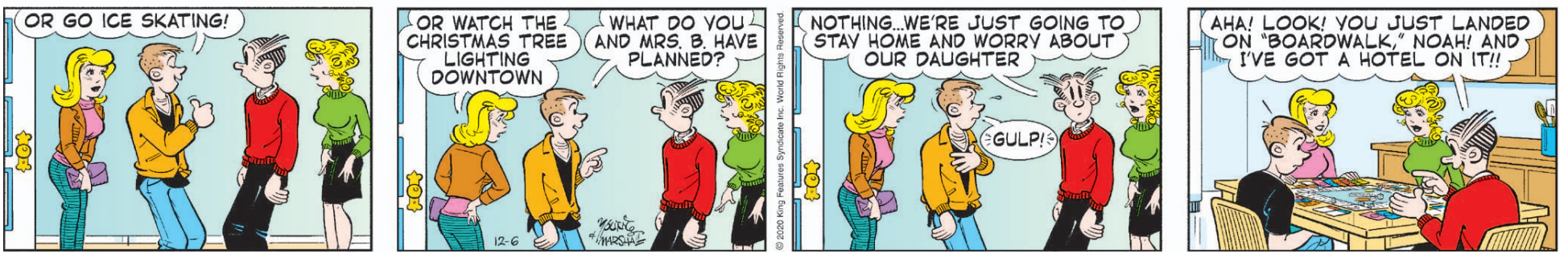




BLONDIE®

BY DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL


BYE, MOM! BYE, DAD! WE'RE LEAVING NOW!
SO, NOAH, WHAT ARE YOU KIDS GONNA DO TONIGHT?
WE'RE NOT SURE, MR. B.
WE MIGHT GO TO A MOVIE, DADDY
www.blondie.com


OR GO ICE SKATING!
OR WATCH THE CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING DOWNTOWN
WHAT DO YOU AND MRS. B. HAVE PLANNED?
12-6
NOTHING...WE'RE JUST GOING TO STAY HOME AND WORRY ABOUT OUR DAUGHTER
GULP!
AHA! LOOK! YOU JUST LANDED ON "BOARDWALK," NOAH! AND I'VE GOT A HOTEL ON IT!!
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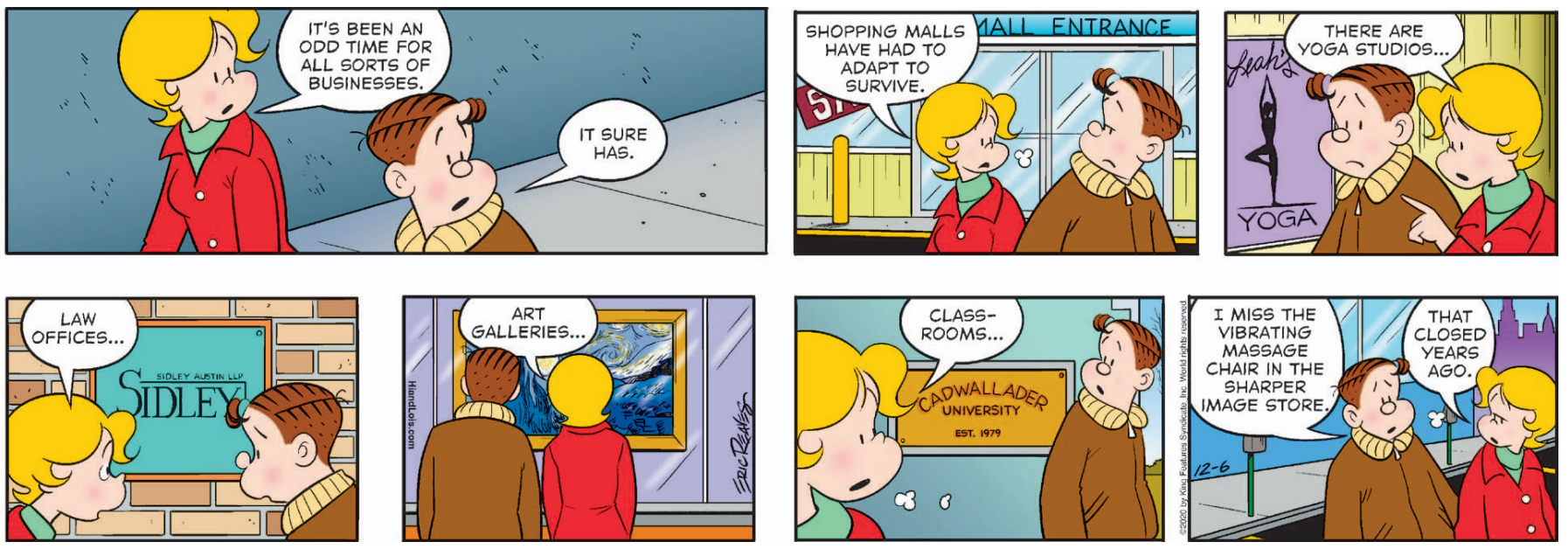
MUTTS

Hi and Lois

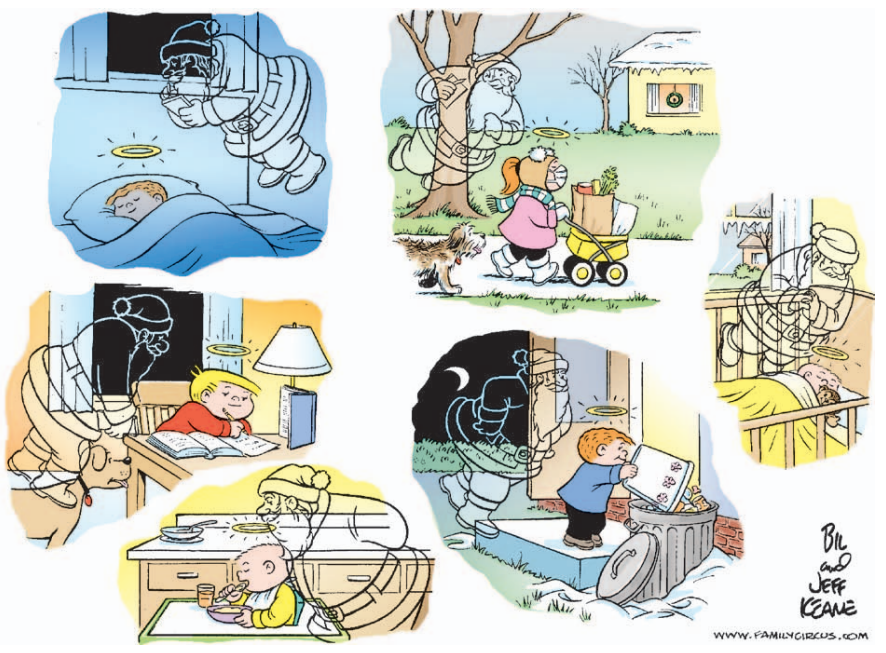
by BRIAN and GREG WALKER



The FAMILY CIRCUS®

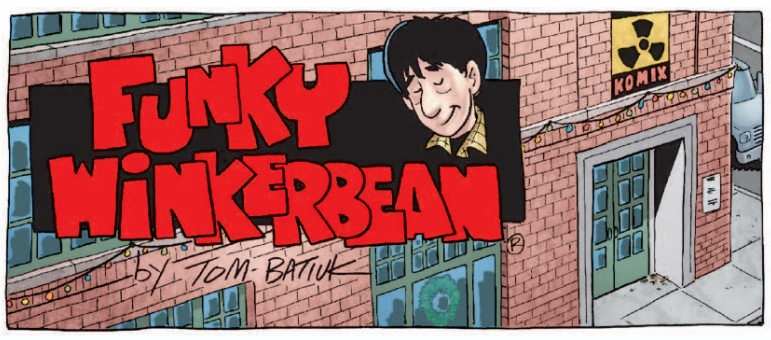
By Bil Keane

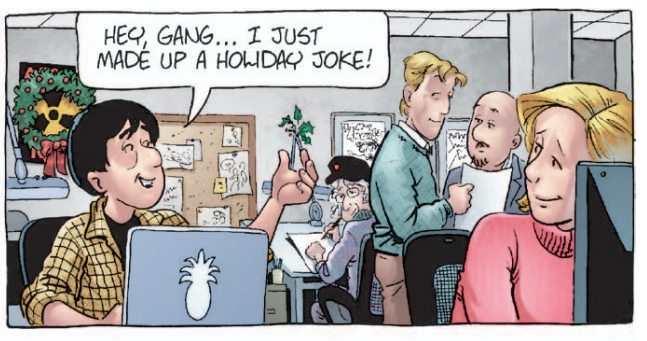
HE SEES YOU WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING...
HE KNOWS WHEN YOU'RE AWAKE...
HE KNOWS IF YOU'VE BEEN BAD OR GOOD,
SO BE GOOD FOR GOODNESS SAKE...
12-6
©2020 BIL KEANE INC. DIST BY KING FEATURES SYND.



FUNKY WINKERBEAN

by TOM BATIUK





WHEN YOU FIND SANDY CLAWS FOOTPRINTS ON YOUR ROOF.
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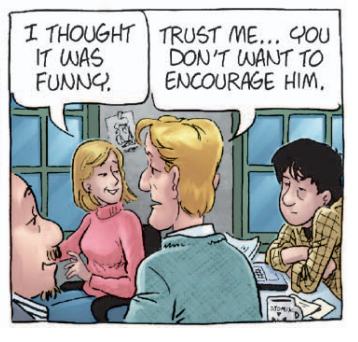
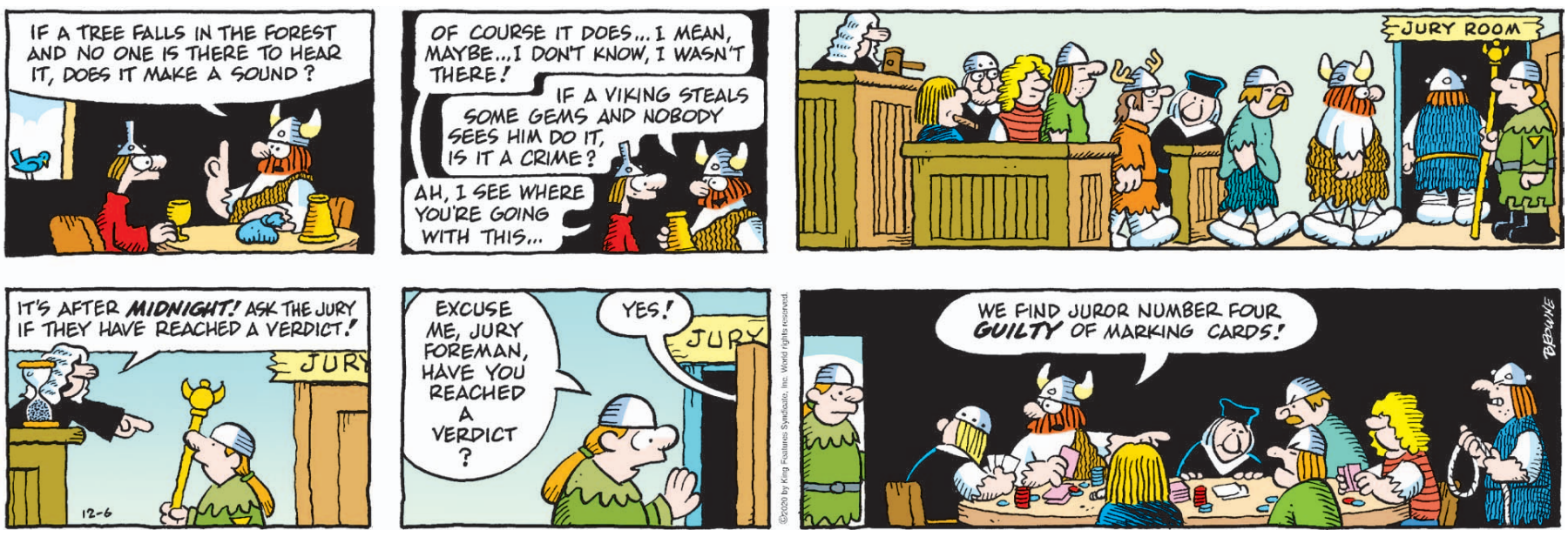


HAGAR the horrible

by DIK BROWNE


IF A TREE FALLS IN THE FOREST AND NO ONE IS THERE TO HEAR IT, DOES IT MAKE A SOUND?
OF COURSE IT DOES... I MEAN, MAYBE... I DON'T KNOW, I WASN'T THERE!
IF A VIKING STEALS SOME GEMS AND NOBODY SEES HIM DO IT, IS IT A CRIME?
AH, I SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH THIS...
JURY ROOM
IT'S AFTER MIDNIGHT! ASK THE JURY IF THEY HAVE REACHED A VERDICT!
JURY
12-6
EXCUSE ME, JURY FOREMAN, HAVE YOU REACHED A VERDICT?
YES!
JURY
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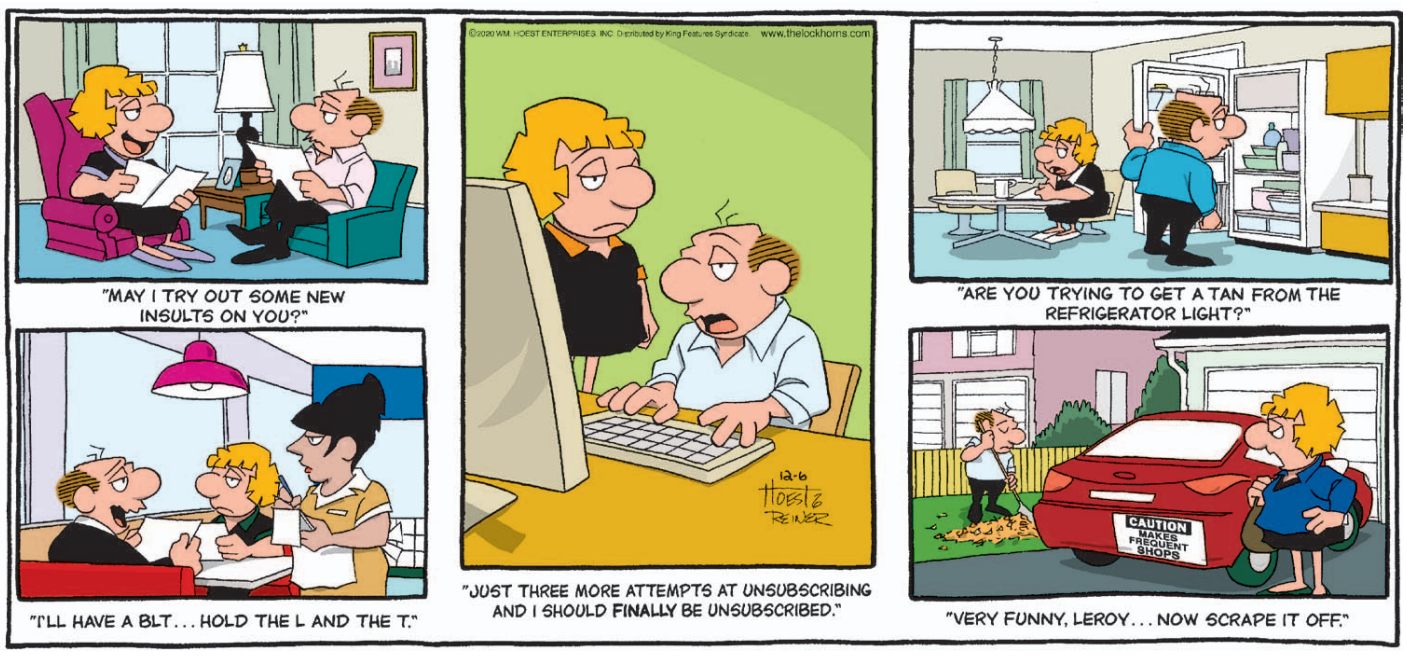
WE FIND JUROR NUMBER FOUR GUILTY OF MARKING CARDS!
BROWNE

THE LOCKHORNS

BY BUNNY HOEST AND JOHN REINER


"MAY I TRY OUT SOME NEW INSULTS ON YOU?"
"I'LL HAVE A BLT... HOLD THE L AND THE T."
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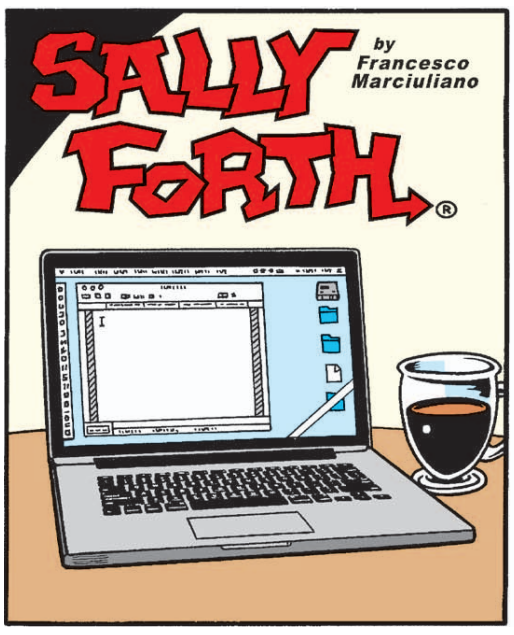
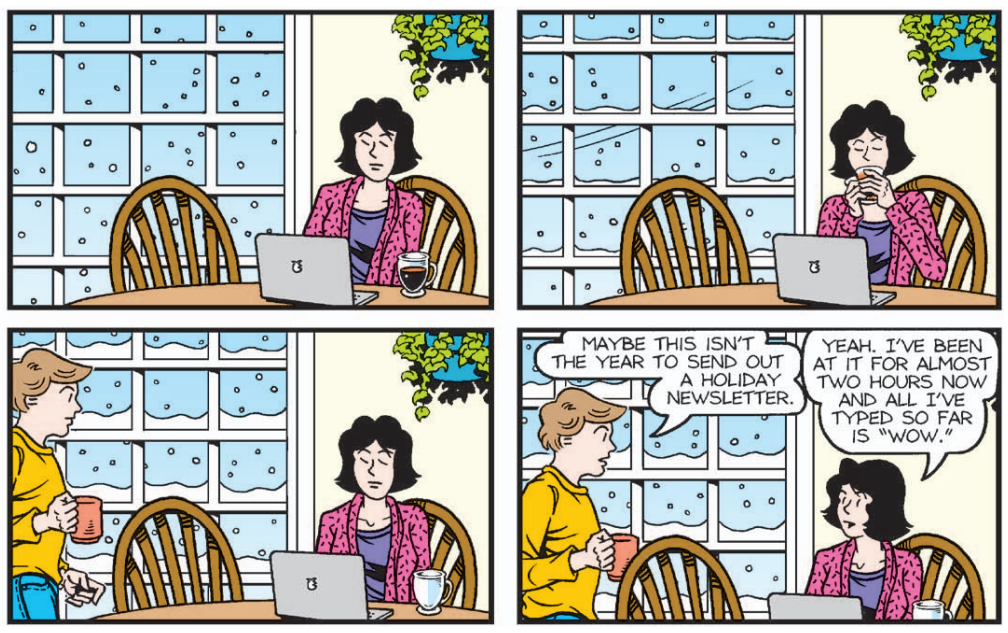
12-6
HOEST
REINER
"JUST THREE MORE ATTEMPTS AT UNSUBSCRIBING AND I SHOULD FINALLY BE UNSUBSCRIBED."
"ARE YOU TRYING TO GET A TAN FROM THE REFRIGERATOR LIGHT?"
CAUTION
MAKES FREQUENT SHOPS
"VERY FUNNY, LEROY... NOW SCRAPE IT OFF."

SALLY FORTH®

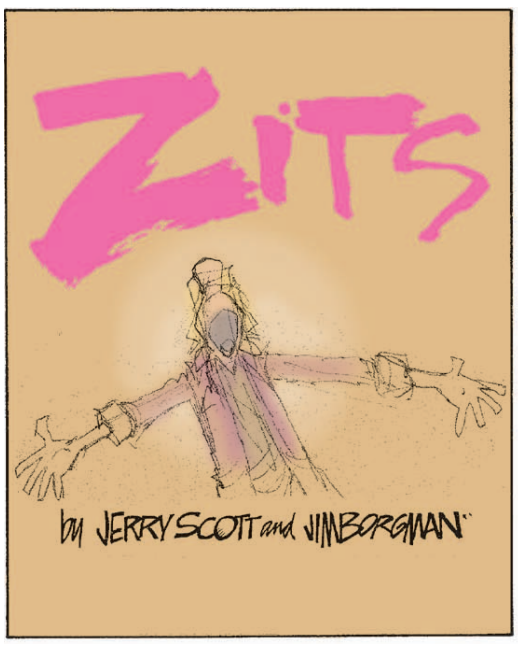
by Francesco Marciuliano

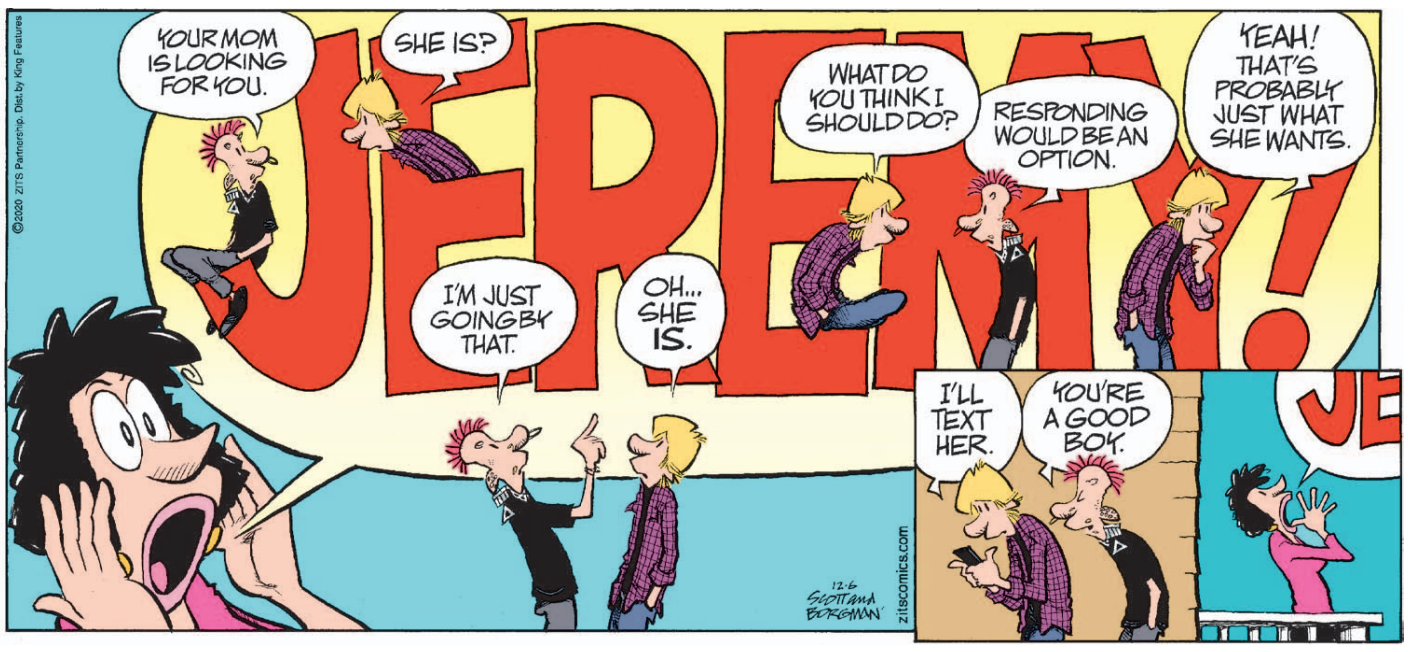




ZITS

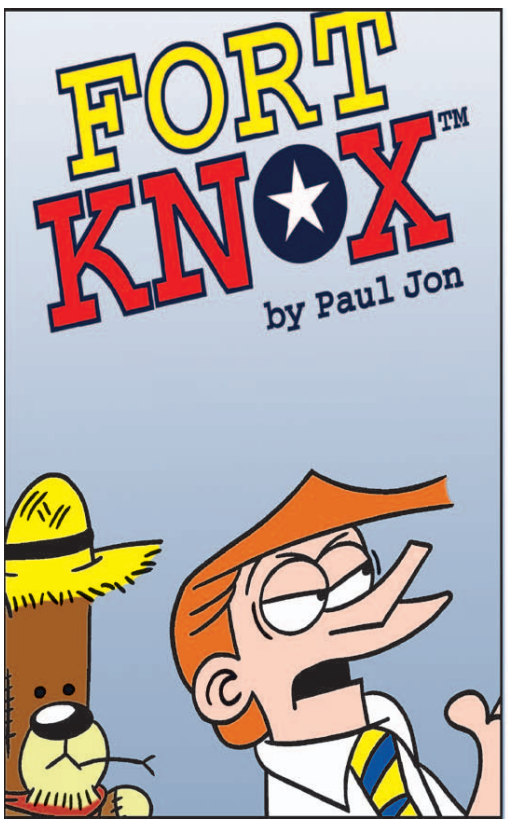
by JERRY SCOTT and JIM BORGMAN

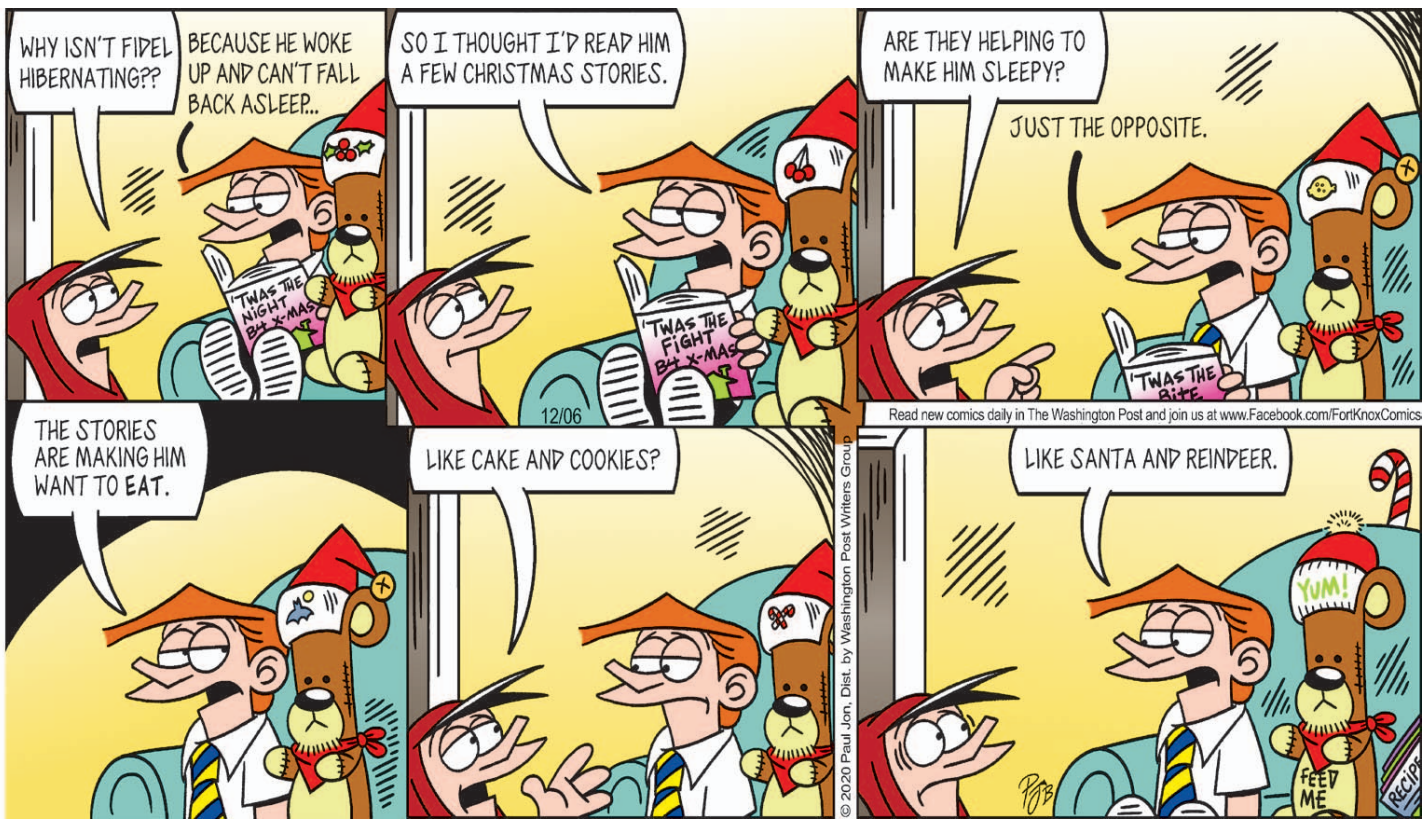




FORT KNOX™

by Paul Jon




WHY ISN'T FIDEL HIBERNATING??
BECAUSE HE WOKE UP AND CAN'T FALL BACK ASLEEP...
'TWAS THE NIGHT BEF X-MAS
SO I THOUGHT I'D READ HIM A FEW CHRISTMAS STORIES.
'TWAS THE FIGHT BEF X-MAS
ARE THEY HELPING TO MAKE HIM SLEEPY?
JUST THE OPPOSITE.
'TWAS THE Bite
12/06
Read new comics daily in The Washington Post and join us at www.Facebook.com/FortKnoxComics
THE STORIES ARE MAKING HIM WANT TO EAT.
LIKE CAKE AND COOKIES?
LIKE SANTA AND REINDEER.
YUM!
FEED ME
RECIPE
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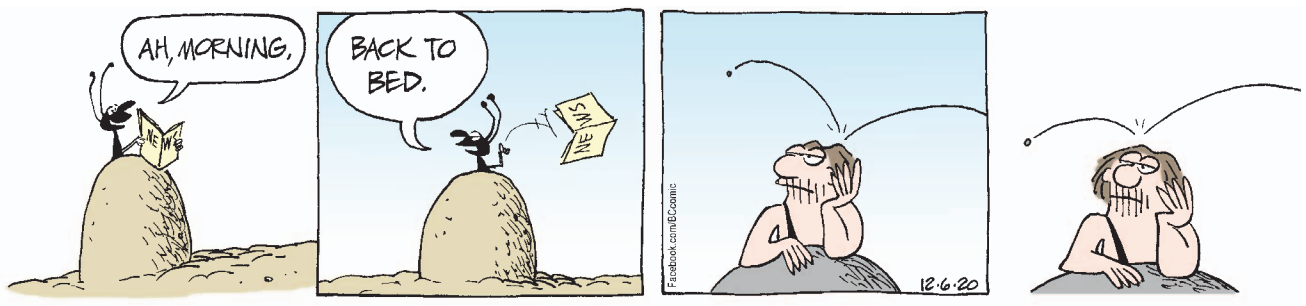
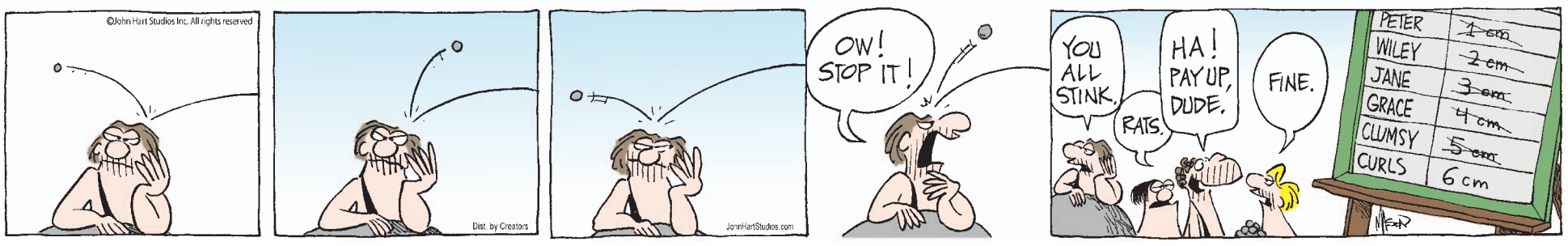
WIZARD OF ID

by Hart, Mastroianni and Parker

BC

BY MASTROIANNI AND HART



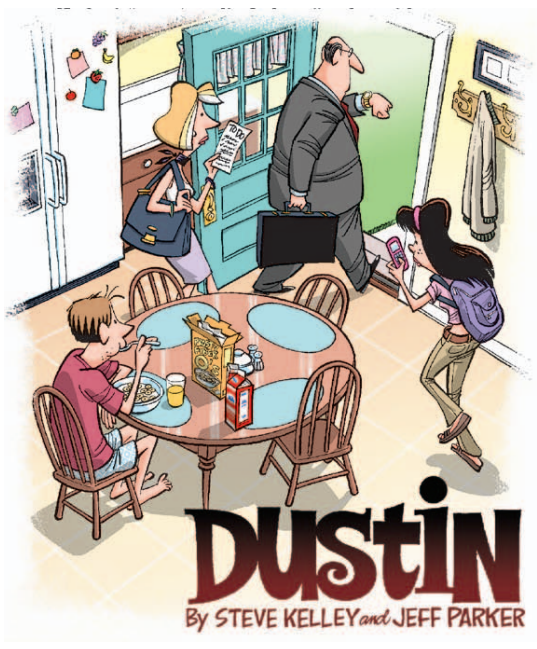


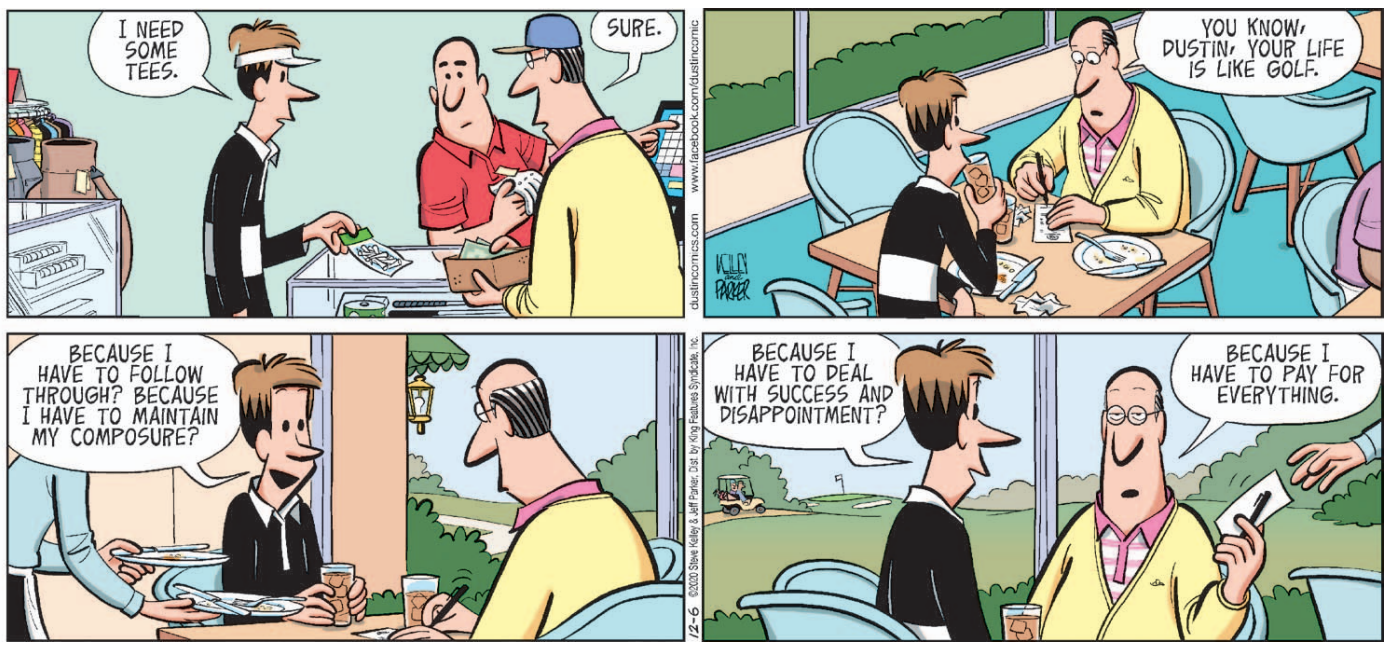
BIZARRO

BIZARRO.COM
Facebook.com/BizarroComics
People don't think of darts as an adrenaline sport until you mount the board on the ceiling.
DAN PIRARO 12·6·20
Dist. by King Features

DUSTIN

By STEVE KELLEY and JEFF PARKER




I NEED SOME TEES.
SURE.
YOU KNOW, DUSTIN, YOUR LIFE IS LIKE GOLF.
BECAUSE I HAVE TO FOLLOW THROUGH? BECAUSE I HAVE TO MAINTAIN MY COMPOSURE?
BECAUSE I HAVE TO DEAL WITH SUCCESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT?
BECAUSE I HAVE TO PAY FOR EVERYTHING.
dustincomics.com
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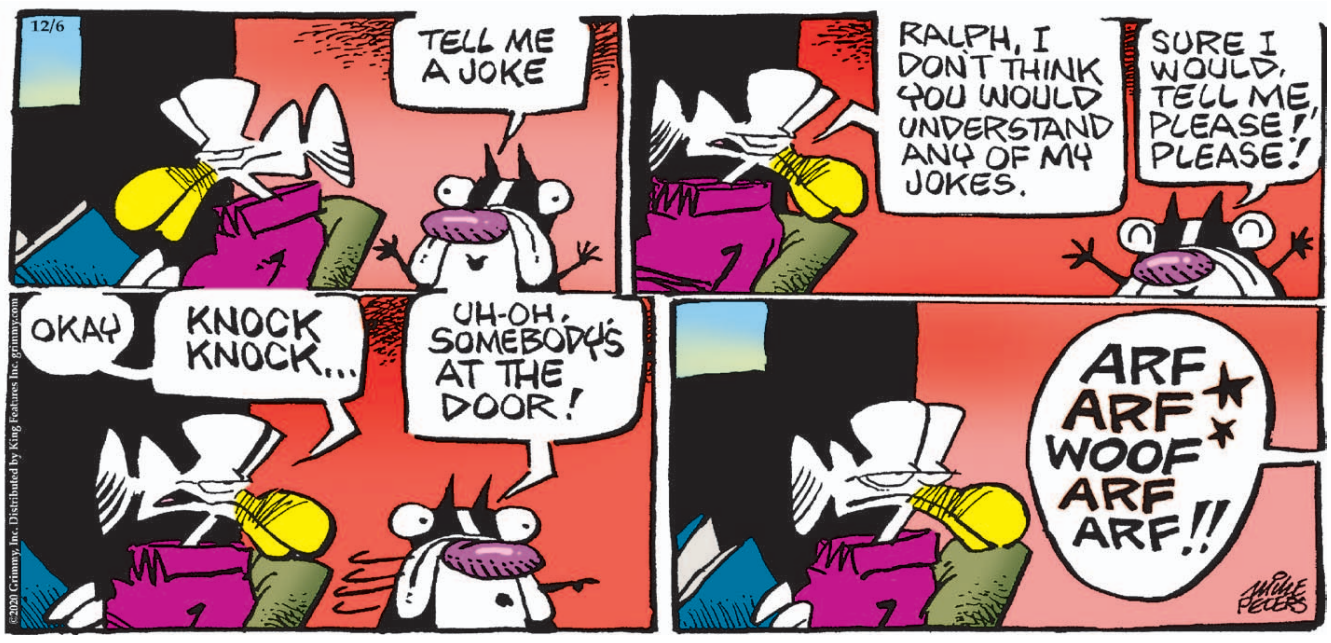
12-6

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM


12/6
TELL ME A JOKE
RALPH, I DON'T THINK YOU WOULD UNDERSTAND ANY OF MY JOKES.
SURE I WOULD, TELL ME, PLEASE! PLEASE!
OKAY
KNOCK KNOCK...
UH-OH, SOMEBODY'S AT THE DOOR!
ARF ARF WOOF ARF ARF!!
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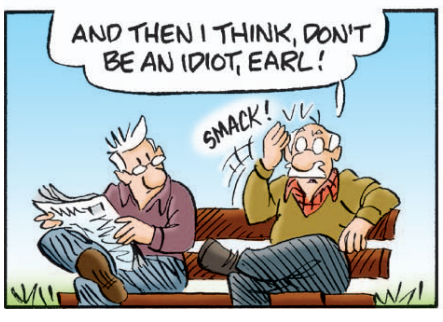
PICKLES

by BRIAN CRANE



AND THEN I THINK, WHAT'S LIFE WITHOUT A LITTLE MORTAL PERIL NOW AND THEN?
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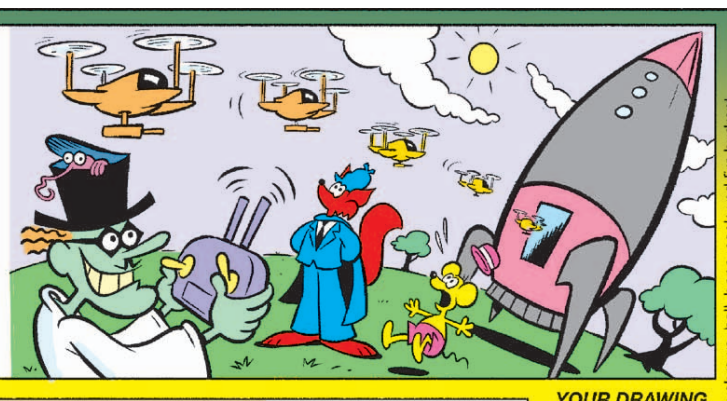
picklescomic.com

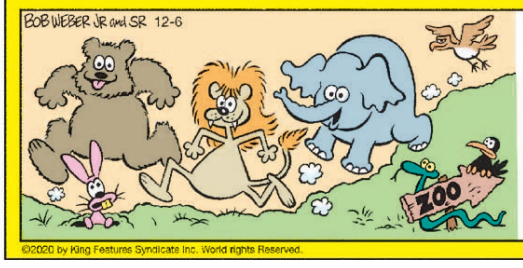
Bob Weber Jr.'s SLYLOCK FOX and COMICS FOR KIDS

Count Weirdly is loading drones onto a rocket that will transport them to Earth's orbit. Once there, he plans to fly the drones toward orbiting GPS satellites and destroy them. Max Mouse fears the twisted count will send the world into mass confusion. Why isn't Slylock Fox panicking?

Solution -- These drones are flown with propellers. Outer space is a vacuum. Without air, the propellers can't provide thrust to move the drones. Slylock knows the drones will not fly in space.



BOB WEBER JR and SR 12-6



True or False

1) The grizzly bear can run faster than many horses.
2) The male lion does 90% of the hunting in the pride.
3) Both male and female African elephants have tusks.

Answer -- 1) True. Grizzly bears can run faster than many horses over short distances. 2) False. 3) True.

YOUR DRAWING

Today's terrific artist is Christian, age 9

Submit your black-and-white drawing to **www.slylockfox.com**

Spot six differences between these panels.

Answer -- Paint drop, eyebrows, ball, bone, sock and fire hydrant.

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